

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

***Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing:
 How the Apollo Theater Shaped American Entertainment***
 Now - January 2, 2011

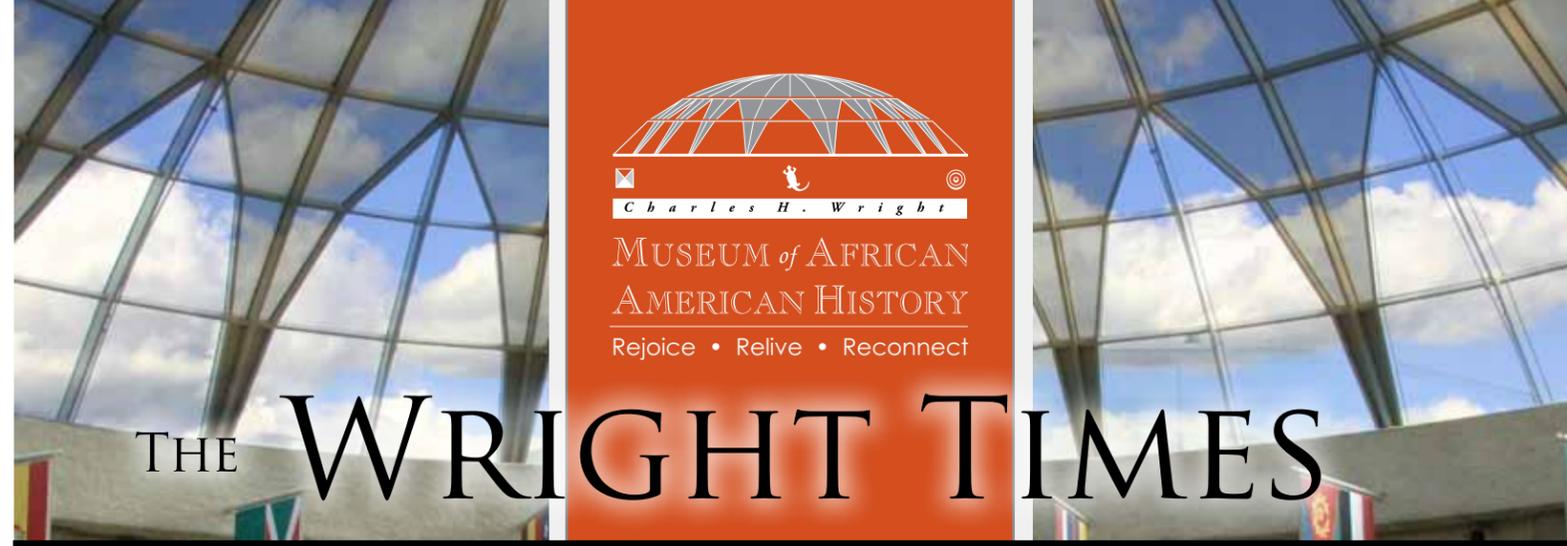
***Art of the Masters:
 A Survey of African American Images, 1980 - 2000***
 Now - February 28, 2011

Crowning Glories: Status, Style and Self-Expression
 Extended by popular demand: now - January 17, 2011

The Test: The Tuskegee Airmen Project
 Opens November 18, 2010

***Portrayals of Life and Landscapes:
 The Art of Frank Kelley, Jr.***
 Now - December 12, 2010

NON-PROFIT ORG
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 DETROIT, MI 48201
 PERMIT NO. 3832



CHARLES H. WRIGHT MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY
 MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Letter from the President

October 2010

It's with great honor and humility that we mark the 45th anniversary of the founding of this institution, from its humble beginnings in a row house on West Grand Boulevard to its current home as the world's largest museum of African American history. And in marking the passage of years, we can reflect on the amazing changes that have occurred, and history that's been made, during that time up to and including today. Every one of us is an active participant in history, and our museum is a place for reflecting upon that. Even more importantly, it is a place for rejoicing, reliving and reconnecting with the lineage of progress that we are all a part of, stretching back through our elders and ancestors, and continuing onwards through our brothers, sisters, children and grandchildren.

LEGACY

The legacy of Dr. Charles H. Wright is evident every day in the wonder, gratitude and inspiration painted on the faces of our visitors. We are proud to be stewards of this institution, and encourage everyone to take a more active role in their history by visiting and exploring it. Our 45th anniversary gives us the opportunity to continue telling the story of this museum in words and pictures, and we hope you enjoy the journey. Better yet, by opening the doors, if you will, to the wonderful Louise Lovett Wright Library and Robert L. Hurst Research Center and its dedicated archival staff, we invite you to take advantage of this wonderful resource in your

research, whether for academic purposes or your own personal edification.

APOLLO

Speaking of anniversaries, we simply cannot contain our excitement at being the first stop on the national tour of *Ain't Nothing Like The Real Thing: How The Apollo Theater Shaped American Entertainment*, an exhibition of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture in collaboration with the Apollo Theater Foundation to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the legendary Harlem theater. The exhibit doors will be open by the time you read this, so please hurry over - it runs through the end of the year, and with one-of-a-kind artifacts such as James Brown's cape and jumpsuit, Michael Jackson's fedora and Duke Ellington's score for *Black and Tan Fantasy*, you'll want to make sure to have time to visit again and again!

THE TEST

Opening November 18 is *The Test: The Tuskegee Airmen Project*, an exhibit chronicling the first African American combat aviators in the U.S. Military. To a larger extent, it examines one of the many stepping-stones towards our country's recognition of our heroism, and acceptance of the great contributions made by African Americans in all areas of American history.

30 DAYS

History cannot be sustained without a healthy legacy, and that's precisely the point of bringing back our popular *30 Days To Lose It!* program for women as an ongoing health and fitness drive every Tuesday evening. Without a doubt, our community faces serious health challenges, and we hope you will join us in creating healthy, new habits to lengthen and improve the quality of our lives. Whether you're a fitness buff or desperately in need of the inspiration to become one, this is a safe and supportive place to start. Plus, like our weekly hustle lessons, it's just plain fun!

In closing, I hope I've given you some reasons to come celebrate the museum's 45th anniversary with us. To honor that history, we need only recognize our invaluable place as a link in the great chain connecting past to present to what will be. This way, we can build upon Dr. Wright's legacy by keeping our history alive, within our own families, communities, and through this wonderful museum, for another 45 years and beyond.

Juanita Moore,
 President/CEO



AIN'T NOTHING LIKE THE REAL THING How the Apollo Theater Shaped American Entertainment

Now through January 2nd

Smithsonian Institution
 Time Warner
 CHASE

AIN'T NOTHING LIKE THE REAL THING was organized by the National Museum of African American History and Culture in collaboration with the Apollo Theater Foundation.

The exhibition's national tour is made possible by a generous grant from Time Warner Inc. Additional funding was provided by JPMorgan Chase & Co.

The exhibition's national tour is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

Call (313) 494-5808 for Special Tour Packages!

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 9 am - 5 pm | Sunday 1 - 5 pm
 Admission: Adults (13 - 61) \$8 | Seniors (62 +) \$5 | Youth (3 - 12) \$5
 Members and children under 3 are admitted free



RECENT EVENTS

Photos courtesy of Annistique Photography



Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing: How the Apollo Theater Shaped American Entertainment

Now - January 2, 2011

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of Harlem's Apollo Theater the Smithsonian presents *Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing: How the Apollo Theater Shaped American Entertainment*. The exhibition traces the evolution of the Apollo—from its origins as a segregated burlesque hall to its starring role at the epicenter of African American entertainment and American popular culture. Nearly all forms of entertainment—comedy, dance, swing, jazz, rock 'n' roll, soul, hip hop and more—were welcomed on the Apollo stage. Serving as a place where African American performers could start and advance their careers, the Apollo hosted some of the best-known names in entertainment—dancers Charles “Cholly” Atkins, Sammy Davis, Jr. and Bill “Bojangles” Robinson; band leaders Cab Callaway and Duke Ellington; comedians Redd Foxx and Jackie “Moms” Mabley; and musicians ranging from Louis Armstrong, James Brown and Lionel Hampton to Billie Holiday, Aretha Franklin and The Jackson Five.

This multimedia exhibition begins its national tour in Detroit. Drawing on wide-ranging materials, including historic photographs, film recordings and artist interviews, the exhibit also includes rare artifacts from Ella Fitzgerald, Miles Davis, LL Cool J and many, many more. Special tour packages are available; please call (313) 494-5808 for more information.

Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing: How the Apollo Theater Shaped American Entertainment is organized by the National Museum of African American History and Culture in collaboration with the Apollo Theater Foundation. The exhibition's national tour is made possible by a generous grant from Time Warner Inc. Additional funding was provided by JPMorgan Chase & Co. The exhibition's national tour is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). Local sponsors include DTE Energy, Masco Corporation, Ford Motor Company, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and the Erb Family Foundation.



Top right moving clockwise;
Apollo Theater Exterior, 2008
Photo courtesy of the Apollo Theater Foundation, Inc. Photo by Shahar Azran



Michael Jackson's Stage Worn Fedora, 1984
Michael Jackson Victory Tour black fedora.
NMAAHC Collection

Louis Armstrong's Selmer Trumpet,
Paris, c. 1930
NMAAHC Collection
Photo Courtesy Christie's

Art of the Masters: A Survey of African American Images, 1980 - 2000

Now - February 28, 2011

Organized by The Michigan Chapter of the National Conference of Artists, *Art of the Masters: A Survey of African American Images* is presented in accordance with the mission and traditions of the NCA — to introduce the works of African American “Master” artists to the world. Included are works of art created by those who made significant contributions to the discipline from 1980-2000.

While the exhibition covers a twenty-year period, many of the artists enjoyed long careers that spanned from the 1930s, during the black cultural renaissance period, into the final two decades of the twentieth century. Featured, for example, are extraordinary images by black renaissance artists Jacob Lawrence and Romare Bearden, as well as stunning works by artists that immediately followed in their footsteps such as John Biggers and Elizabeth Catlett. Spectacular creations by Detroit area artists Alvin Loving, Jon Onye Lockard, Shirley Woodson, Raymond Wells, Aaron Ibn Pori-Pitts, Marian Stephens, and Hugh Grannum, ensures that art enthusiasts, collectors, and art professionals will experience an array of work created by artists of African heritage. To document this event, the exhibition has a companion catalog, which can be purchased in the museum store.

The National Conference of Artists and the Charles H. Wright Museum are grateful to the lenders to the exhibition. NCA also thanks the Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural Affairs for funding the catalog.



I'll Be Watching You #2 - Shirley Woodson

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History **45 Years Young: 1965 - 2010**



Archives: The Heart of History at the Museum

Even if you're one of the very few who've visited every gallery and regularly attend the museum's many events, chances are there's a whole wing of The Wright left to explore: the archives. The Louis Lovett Wright Library and Robert L. Hurst Research Center, the entrance to which is located next to the AT&T gallery, is the seat of the museum's archives and provides resources that support the museum's collections and exhibitions. On a daily basis, access is provided to researchers such as scholars, graduate students and the interested public.

"In general, archives are a place where history is not only preserved, but made accessible for people to share," says Alexis Braun Marks, the museum's archivist. "There's no point in keeping materials if people can't learn from them." Admittedly, this is somewhat of a controversial opinion amongst those in the museum industry, but for Braun Marks, the museum's mission to preserve and educate dovetails in a practical manner. For example, a donor recently provided over 200 jazz albums in near-perfect condition. When it was revealed that the museum didn't have the necessary playback equipment, the donor donated her turntable with the expressed purpose of providing the means for others to listen to and enjoy them.

Preservation, education, and community impact – the archives serves all three of these important aims of the Charles H. Wright Museum, as it also preserves the rich history of the City of Detroit. Says Braun Marks, "We can see this in the cyclical nature of conversations taking place right now about the City of Detroit, and how they parallel those from 20 or 30 years ago." This is the vantage point history, and specifically, a well-recorded history, can give us, and the museum provides this by documenting the history of the community within which it is based.



In addition to Braun Marks, the library and research center is staffed by Assistant Archivist/Librarian Michelle McKinney and Melissa Samson, Database Manager. The archives are a part of the Collections and Exhibitions department, which has invested considerable time and energy into digitizing collections so that more of the museum's historical resources are available online. Other members of the department include Patrina Chatman, Curator, Underground Railroad Project Coordinator Jennifer Duckworth, and Robert Smith, Director of Collections and Exhibitions.

Finally, the archives are an institutional repository, in that they preserve the history not only of African Americans, but of the museum itself. Being one of the first museums dedicated to telling the story of the African and African American experience attracts numerous researchers intent on exploring its history. So whether your interest is in an individual, the City of Detroit, African American history in general, or of the great museum within which it's housed, be sure to visit the Louise Lovett Wright Library and Robert L. Hurst Research Center.

For more information on the history of the museum, please log on to www.chwmuseum.org/visit/about-the-museum.html.



VISITING THE LIBRARY & RESEARCH CENTER

The Louise Lovett Wright Library and Robert L. Hurst Research Center is open to the public, and you don't have to be an academic researcher to use this valuable resource. Secondary source materials, which include biographies, encyclopedias and other research collections, can be viewed during normal business hours, which are Tuesday – Friday, 9 am – 5pm, and Saturdays by appointment.

Primary source materials, which include photographs, manuscripts, diaries, papers, and other items directly from collections, require an advance appointment of at least 24 hours. Please keep in mind that fulfilling requests for primary source materials are staff-intensive and may have specific requirements related to handling and preservation. Materials must be viewed on site, and no food or drink is allowed. In fact, the archival staff can't even enjoy a cup of coffee at their stations!

Because of the hands-on nature of their work, the library staff can often more quickly respond to email requests than phone messages. If possible, please try your requests via email.

LIBRARY CONTACTS:

research@chwmuseum.org

Alexis Braun Marks, Archivist

(313) 494-5840
amarks@chwmuseum.org

Michelle McKinney, Assistant Archivist / Librarian

(313) 494-5895
mmckinney@chwmuseum.org

Melissa Samson, Database Manager

(313) 494-5842
msamson@chwmuseum.org

Manuscripts & Photographs

(313) 494-5840

Object Collection

(313) 494-5810

Support Our Museum

Your support is vital to helping the Charles H. Wright Museum fulfill its mission to provide "learning opportunities, exhibitions, programs and events based on collections and research that explore the diverse history and culture of African Americans and their African origins."

Gifts from individuals are a vital source of operating support for the Museum. Your gift helps fund and maintain the Museum's ongoing exhibits, programs and special events, and is an investment in the viability of the largest African American museum in the world!

BECOME A MEMBER

Join the Charles H. Wright Museum to receive these great benefits:

- Personalized Membership Card
- Free admission to the galleries
- 10% discount in Museum Store
- Invitations and advance notice of special events
- Members' discount on selected programs

MAKE A DONATION

There are many ways to support the Museum by using various gift designations and ways to give. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding your contribution at (313) 494-5872.

VOLUNTEER

The Museum couldn't maintain its high caliber of service without its dedicated volunteers! Call (313) 494-5826 to inquire about upcoming volunteer orientation dates.

Visitors' Voices

In searching on the web for something to do while in Detroit last weekend, I came across the museum... my experience greatly exceeded my expectations! From the well-manicured lawn to the cleanliness of the facility both outdoors and indoors, we were in awe... I must say, I have visited numerous museums around the country and frequent the museums in my hometown area of Cleveland, Ohio. Your current main exhibit is riveting. As I went through the slave ship, I was overwhelmed with emotion; mainly because the depiction had a certain level of realism... I could go on and on about this museum because I am so proud that we have an African American Museum that is world class and worthy of much praise. I truly believe every American, not just African American[s], should visit your site. I will be bringing my entire family soon, including the grandchildren because it is definitely worth the trip. Thank you for affording me the opportunity to convey this message and for the sense of pride that was bestowed after leaving the museum... I do not lend my comments very often, but I felt this could not go without letting you know what a spectacular display of our history is depicted at your museum.

*Sincerely,
Alberta Haynes
Shaker Heights, Ohio*

**It's Never Too Early
To Start Planning Your**

**HOLIDAY PARTY
WEDDING
GRADUATION PROM
CORPORATE LUNCHEON**

**CALL 313-494-5801
TODAY!**

I had the pleasure of visiting your Museum on May 4. I was impressed not only by the lovely and informative exhibits, but also by the friendly, helpful and professional staff. Ms. Ernestine greeted me with warmth and genuine happiness, and both she and Ms. Sylvia added such depth and personal attention to my visit that I wanted to personally mention them to you. The nice young man in the bookstore was also very helpful and did not rush me out despite the nearness of closing time. In an age where large institutions are increasingly faceless and less human, these staff members represented your organization with a friendly, human presence that made my visit even more memorable. Please accept my thanks and congratulations for having them on your team.

*Respectfully,
Nikki L. Rogers
Dayton, Ohio*



This newsletter made possible by the generous support of the Target Corporation