



Past Exhibitions

Seeking Liberty: Annapolis, An Imagined Community

March 4, 2008 - June 14, 2009

In 2008, the right to citizen-elected representation in Annapolis turned 300 years old. The city charter granted to Annapolis in 1708 gave the city political reality. With this exhibit we commemorated the anniversary by celebrating the quest for liberty. *Seeking Liberty* characterized Annapolis from the beginning. It was a home to religious dissidents, political dissidents during the American Revolution, and many free African Americans before Emancipation who fought very hard for the freedom of those who were enslaved.



Archaeologists from Archaeology in Annapolis, the University of Maryland and Historic Annapolis Foundation dug over forty sites in Annapolis in twenty-six years. We had a great time and we discovered the city's treasures. Much of the best archaeology was from the 18th century. We found material belonging to European colonists and lots of materials that belonged to African Americans. We uncovered material from as early as the late 17th century and as recent as the 20th century. There is archaeology almost everywhere in the city and we wanted to show it off during the City's 300th anniversary.

The *Seeking Liberty* exhibit featured artifacts from five sites in Historic Annapolis: the Governor Calvert House, Reynolds Tavern, the Jonas Green House, the Brice House and the Maynard-Burgess House. Many of these artifacts were never been on display for the public before this exhibit.

The exhibition was funded by a grant from Preserve America. This exhibition featured a free cell phone audio tour generously funded by a grant from the Four Rivers Heritage Area.

New Exhibit Object!

In the spring of 2008, Archaeology in Annapolis conducted a series of digs along Fleet and Cornhill Streets in downtown Annapolis. During this dig, archaeologists Aleithea Williams and Matt Cochrane uncovered an early 18th century axe blade encased in a glass mass containing lead shot and nails. The shape of the object and its placement have lead archaeologists to believe this object to be a public symbol of African religious practices. The bundle was on display in the front windows of the Banneker-Douglass Museum.

Read "[Under Maryland Street, Ties to African Past](#)" from *The New York Times* to learn more about the bundle's discovery.

Forty Blossoms from the Bouquet: Calvert County Maryland

May 19, 2009 - August 23, 2009

Forty Blossoms from the Bouquet presented the stories of forty amazing women from Calvert County, detailing their lives and personal accomplishments through biographies and portraits by Calvert County-based artist Delphine Siggers-Williams. Portrait subjects included Calvert County educators, public servants, medical professionals, performers, and community leaders. *Forty Blossoms from the Bouquet* had been displayed at several venues in Maryland including Jefferson Patterson Park, Maryland State House, and Annmarie Garden.

Delphine Siggers-Williams is a native of Severn, Maryland. She graduated from Wiley H. Bates High School and Morgan State University where she majored in art. Ms. Williams is the artist behind several portrait-based exhibitions including African American Expo II featuring forty African American men of Calvert County. Ms. Williams recently published the children's book *Freckles with all the Speckles*.

Journey to the White House, Dr. Joan M. E. Gaither, 2009

January 17, 2009 - September 26, 2009



Acclaimed fiber artist Dr. Joan M. E. Gaither returned to the Banneker-Douglass Museum with her quilt *Journey to the White House*. The quilt chronicled the life and political journey of President Barack Obama to the White House. This story quilt was conceptualized and started by Dr. Gaither in June 2008 and was completed at the Banneker-Douglass Museum during a public quilting workshop during the 2009 Inaugural Weekend. The quilt is a stunning mixture of text and images showing the people who influenced and laid the ground work for the election of the first African American president.

Dr. Gaither is a professor at the Maryland Institute College of Art. Her work has been seen in several museums including the Banneker-Douglass Museum, Maryland Historical Society, Walters Art Museum, and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum. Dr. Gaither previously exhibited her work at the Banneker-Douglass Museum in 2007 during the exhibition *Trails, Tracks, Tarmac* with a showing of three large quilts based on her family, church, and community.

Dr. Gaither's work is featured in the book *Trails, Tracks, Tarmac: African American Narrative Quilts from Anne Arundel County, Maryland* available for sale at the Banneker-Douglass Museum.

Learn more about the artist [here!](#)

Obama Mural

June 1, 2009 - September 26, 2009

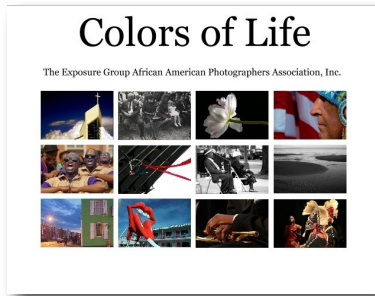
Students from Lothian (MD) Elementary School, led by school art teacher Donna Schmitz, came together to honor the inauguration of Barack Obama as President of the United States to create a mural of the president complete with images of the citizens of the United States, messages of hope, and the signatures of the students, faculty, and staff of Lothian Elementary School.

The mural was then donated to the Banneker-Douglass Museum in 2011 to be a part of its permanent collection.



Colors of Life

September 15, 2009 - December 5, 2009



Curated by The Exposure Group: African American Photographers Association, Inc, a Washington, D.C.-based photography organization, this juried member exhibition showcased the photographic work which included portrait artists, photojournalists, documentarians, and fine art photographers. The exhibition coincided with the release of the Association's first photography book also entitled *Colors of Life*.

For more information, visit [The Exposure Group's site](#).

Hidden Treasures: Celebrating 25 Years of the Banneker-Douglass Museum

July 31, 2009 - December 11, 2009

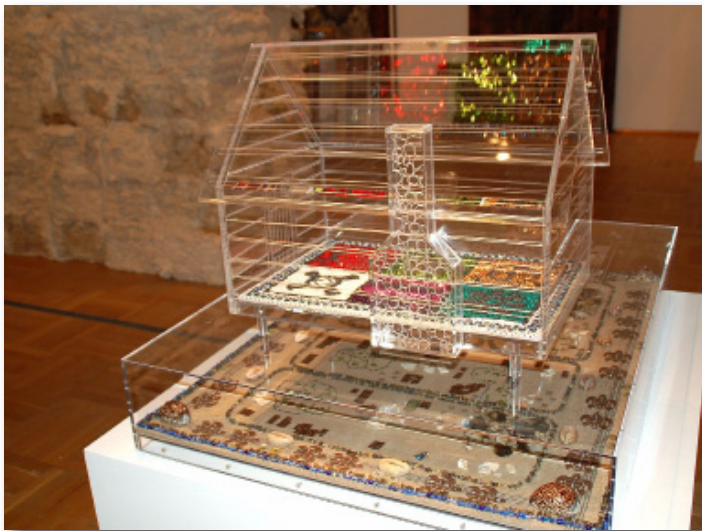
This exhibit was the chance to come discover and examine a sample of the numerous collections of the Banneker-Douglass Museum. Some of the most significant and inspirational artifacts were taken off the storage shelves to show the best we have to offer. We showcased the history of the museum and the fight to save the former Mount Moriah A.M.E. Church, the eventual home of the Banneker-Douglass Museum. Exhibition highlights included the documentary, *From Cause to Reality: The Banneker-Douglass Museum Story* featuring many of the key people responsible for the creation of the museum.



The Seneca Village Collaboration

January 16, 2010 - July 1, 2010

The focal point of this exhibit was a commemorative sculpture by Maryland-based artists Leslie King-Hammond and José J. Mapily called *Celestial Praise House for Seneca Village*. The piece documented a nineteenth century settlement founded by African Americans and later displaced by New York City's Central Park, the first urban landscaped park in the United States. This artwork was designed as part of the exhibition *Legacies: Contemporary Artists Reflect on Slavery* at the New York Historical Society in 2006. This exhibition marked the Maryland debut of *Celestial Praise House for Seneca Village*.



In addition to the *Celestial Praise House for Seneca Village* piece, several never before seen artifacts from the collections of the Sylvia Gaither Garrison Library and the Banneker-Douglass Museum were on display to highlight the lives of African Americans in Maryland during Seneca Village's existence. Such objects included manumission papers from Anne Arundel County, Allegany County, and Howard County; free-born African American verification papers; a receipt from a slave sale in Anne Arundel County; and first edition copies of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*, and *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*.

Portraits of Courage

January 16, 2010 - September 2010



The men and women depicted in the *Portraits of Courage* exhibition represented African American achievement throughout Maryland's state history in the fields of science, law, publishing, politics, and civil rights activism. Each portrait commemorated and celebrated the accomplishments of these individuals as well as highlighted their lasting contributions to the state of Maryland and to the United States.

The portraits included in this exhibition are a part of the Banneker-Douglass Museum's permanent collection, each tied in a special way to the museum's history. In 1976, the Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation commissioned artist Hughie Lee Smith to create portraits of Benjamin Banneker, Frederick Douglass, and Harriet Tubman to mark the first year of the Foundation's existence. The 1984 opening of the museum included the unveiling of the Harriet Tubman, John H. Murphy, and Lillie Carroll Jackson portraits also painted by Smith. The portrait of Herbert Frisby by Oliver Patrick Scott is part of a large collection of materials documenting Frisby's arctic exploration, some of which may be seen in the museum's permanent exhibition. Nathaniel Gibbs' portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is part of the museum's holding of materials documenting the Civil Rights Movement.

Selections from the Banneker-Douglass Museum Fine Art Collection

January 16, 2010 - September 2010

Highlights from the Banneker-Douglass Museum's Fine Art Collection were put on display in this exhibition featuring artwork by Maryland artists. Many of the artworks included in this exhibition had not been on display in over a decade.

BDM Family Activity Gallery

August 7, 2010 - April 23, 2011

This interactive exhibit allowed visitors to discover Maryland's African American history through hands on activities for the entire family. The Banneker-Douglass Museum invited families and youth groups to learn about the many people, places, and events shaping Maryland's African American history and culture through hands on activities, games, crafts, and a scavenger hunt.

- Use the power of observation to create a star without any instructions like Benjamin Banneker.
- Learn about the hidden codes and messages on the Underground Railroad with your guide Harriet Tubman
- Discover how to navigate on a scavenger hunt like Matthew Henson
- Imagine yourself at Carr's Beach in the 1950's with famous performers
- Examine the challenges faced by African American students during segregation.



This exhibition was a collaborative effort between the Banneker-Douglass Museum and Growing Girls and Gardens, a program of the Middle Grades Partnership with Roland Park Country School and Garrison Middle School in Baltimore. Each of the activities included in the exhibition were researched and designed by high school senior girls participating in the program. At the conclusion of this exhibition, all of the activities were available in activity bags for families to check out at the museum's front desk for use in the permanent exhibition, *Deep Roots Rising Waters*.

Shaping History Through Service: The Walter Mills Story

October 31, 2010 - April 2, 2011

In 1939, Walter S. Mills, an educator at Parole Elementary School in Annapolis, MD, fought for African American teachers in Anne Arundel County to receive the same pay rate as white teachers. The court case was successfully argued by attorney and Maryland native Thurgood Marshall, bringing an end to unequal pay for teachers in Anne Arundel County, and eventually the entire state of Maryland.

Throughout the remainder of his professional career, Mills focused on activities that promoted the welfare and the advancement of others. This exhibition included rarely seen photos, objects, documents, and oral history footage that tell the life story of Walter S. Mills.

Parole Elementary School: Class of 1954

October 31, 2010 - April 2, 2011

Walter Mills' legal battle was one of many victories Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP took in their fight for access to equal education for all students. This fight continued for several years eventually leading to the landmark 1954 Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education* which overturned the policy of separate but equal education. This famous court case changed the face of education literally and figuratively through the integration of schools throughout the country.

Music to Our Ears: The Sounds of the African American Experience at Carr's and Sparrow's Beaches, Part II

May 31, 2011 - September 4, 2011

Carr's and Sparrow's Beaches, located on the Annapolis Neck Peninsula, served as popular entertainment venues for African Americans throughout the Eastern seaboard from 1929 through 1980. The beaches offered recreation and entertainment options for African Americans during segregation. Sparrow's Beach hosted family and church groups while Carr's Beach provided more lively entertainment including weekly Sunday afternoon concerts featuring the biggest performers of the day. Musicians including Chuck Berry, James Brown, Fats Domino, Ella Fitzgerald, Aretha Franklin, Sarah Vaughan, and Stevie Wonder attracted audiences from locations throughout the East Coast every weekend.



The *Music to Our Ears* project was a collaborative effort between Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Banneker-Douglass Museum, Banneker-Douglass Museum, and Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation. In response to the overwhelming community call for increased information on Carr's and Sparrow's Beaches, the *Music to Our Ears* project empowered students at Southern Senior High School to serve as researchers for a community-wide documentation project.

During the spring 2011 semester, students from Southern Senior High School's African American History class met with historians and community members, studied news articles and images of the beaches, and visited the area once occupied by Carr's and Sparrow's Beaches. Their research led up to oral history interviews with Anne Arundel County community members with personal and professional connections to Carr's and Sparrow's Beaches. The student-led interviews and research were used to create the *Music to Our Ears* exhibition. Images included in the exhibition came from community members; the Thomas Baden Collection at the Banneker-Douglass Museum and the Maryland State Archives Special Collections; and the *Afro-American Newspaper* Archives and Special Collections.

Thomas R. Baden: Distinctive Depictions of a Local Community

May 31, 2011 - September 4, 2011

Annapolis native Thomas Baden, also known as “Tommy B,” turned his love and talent for photography into a purpose: capturing the underexposed history and culture of the local African American community. Mr. Baden was a frequent photographer for Carr’s Beach and Sparrow’s Beach; many of the photographs used in the *Music to Our Ears* exhibition are his handiwork.

This companion exhibit to *Music to Our Ears* was a small sampling of the Thomas Baden Collection at the Banneker-Douglass Museum, which consists of over 3,000 photographs.



Cisco Davis: Selected Works on the American Experience

June 23, 2011 - September 10, 2011

Based in Baltimore, Cisco Davis developed his craft as an artist while serving in the United States Army and continued his pursuit of a career in art as a commissioned artist. His work shows clear influences from Cal



Massey and classical inspiration from Rembrandt. His stated primary goal with art is to educate the public. “I believe art is life,” said Davis. “The simple things in life that we seem to ignore, the artist explores,” he added.

Cisco Davis: Selected Works on the American Experience included an assortment of 20 works that illustrated milestones in African American history, as well as deep personal studies by the artist. The exhibition included paintings and mixed-media pieces.

Loring Cornish: Selections from ‘In Each Other’s Shoes’

October 2, 2011 – March 31, 2012

What do you get when you mix dilapidated doors, old nails, broken bottles, scraps of metal, shards of glass, and pieces of tile with well-worn shoes, old basketballs, outdated telephones, scraps of metal, and leftover paint? If you are Loring Cornish, this hodgepodge of seemingly unrelated found objects is way to explore commonalities among peoples, histories, and ideas.

From African Americans to Jewish Americans, from the Middle Passage to the Holocaust, and from discrimination, isolation, and suffering to triumph, renewal, and harmony, Cornish’s crafting of assembled found objects invites the viewer into his life, his work, and indeed his world.

Cornish’s work asks you to think about the nature of art, what constitutes waste, and how to express your socio-spiritual self.



Art is Believing: The Creative Process of Loring Cornish

October 2, 2011 – March 31, 2012

This companion exhibit to *In Each Other's Shoes* offered the chance to look inside [Loring Cornish's](#) workspace and hear from the artist himself. Visitors learned how and why Cornish uses a mixture of items others might consider “just trash” as materials for thought-provoking mosaics that speak to shared human experiences. This exhibition included a 10 minute video of the artist discussing his work and an art station for young people who wished to create their own Cornish-inspired works of art.



Flee! Stories of Flight from Maryland in Black and White

November 1, 2011- April 14, 2012

November 1, 2011 marked the 147th anniversary of the passage of Maryland Constitution Article 24 of 1864, which abolished slavery in the state of Maryland. Designed by the Maryland State Archives' (MSA) [Study of Legacy of Slavery in Maryland](#), this traveling exhibition commemorated that momentous occasion and provided the historical context of those who fought to free themselves prior to the constitution. It highlighted rare historical documents that give testament to the daily operation of slavery in Maryland. Also on display were documents and objects from that era that are part of the Banneker-Douglass Museum's permanent collection.

Please visit the MSA's [website](#) for the virtual supplement to this exhibit.

Faces of Ghana: A Photography Exhibit by Jay L. Baker

December 15, 2011 - June 2, 2012



This exhibition focused on “lifestyle pictures” Baker took while on an excursion to Ghana with the famed Morgan State University Choir in August 2007. Its colorful photographs highlighted activity at the marketplace, life by the ocean shores of Ghana, and shared experiences between children and adults. They were an expression of the everyday life in Ghana and served as a means to educate and celebrate the cultural essence of what was formerly known as the British colony of the Gold Coast. Ghana holds the distinction of being the first African country to acquire independence from European rule.

A Baltimore native, Baker served as Chief Photographer in the administration of Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley — the first African American to hold that position in Maryland history.

Our Common Threads: Stories of the African American Community in Anne Arundel County

June 2, 2012 - August 31, 2012

This exhibit of documentary story quilts allowed visitors to discover their connections to local history. This exhibition featured Rosenwald Schools, integration in Anne Arundel County, and life at the Anne Arundel County Almshouse. This exhibition was jointly created by Anne Arundel County school students and community members.



My African-American Community: A Collection of Photographs and Stories, 2000-2010

August 18, 2012 - January 26, 2013

Tracing its roots back to the 17th century, Calvert County is home to one of the oldest African American communities in MD. “From a time when Calvert County’s black population grew to approximately 60 percent of the populace, to its present-day residents representing the national average of 12 percent, Calvert’s African Americans have attempted to hold on to many of their rich cultural traditions. Although their livelihoods as farmers and watermen have mostly ceased to exist these days, they continue to maintain strong ties to the land and an unwavering commitment to family values and community” (From “Listening to the People of the Fields,” by Margaret Tearman, *Bay Weekly*: July 24th, 2008).

William “Billy” Poe is a poet, essayist, and documentary photographer. He shares his research through exhibitions, original plays, and film vignettes. He is also the author of, *African-Americans of Calvert County*.



This exhibition was a part of a larger documentary project that included oral history interviews, which were available at a computer station in the lobby. Poe conducted interviews for a local television program as well. They were viewed in the BDM Theater.

Race-Rhythm-Reflection: The Art of James Terrell

October 27, 2012 - April 21, 2013



James Stephen Terrell is a Washington, DC-based singer-songwriter, painter, educator, musician, and pastor. Terrell believes that his “art is a reflection of joy, pain and confusion, contemplation and deliverance.” He seeks to inspire his audience to search their souls and thus create their own personal harmony through an awakening of the subconscious.

This exhibition consisted of over thirty paintings. The artist used concentric shapes, bold, layered lines, and arresting colors to give voice to the ambiguities of life while searching for spiritual peace.

Making It Work: Emerging African American Women Artists

February 23, 2013 - September 14, 2013

Making It Work brought together three local, emerging women artists who blended non-traditional and traditional artistic mediums to create contemporary works of art. This exhibition sought to draw attention to the very idea of “making it work” — crafting a creative story through the materials that are uniquely available to everyone. Whether what is available to you is newspaper, plastic bottles, or canvas, this idea of using what you have to “make it work” coincides with the African American historical narrative of resilience and self-reliance.

Featured Artists: Tracy Butler, Sharron Patrice Johnson, and Ameshia Stukes. Curated by Asantewa Boakyewa.



Growing Up Afro: Snapshots of Black Childhood from the Afro-American Newspaper

June 2, 2013 - February 11, 2014



Growing Up AFRO was a one-of-a-kind pictorial exhibition that celebrated the 120th anniversary of the *Afro-American Newspaper*. In its 121st year, the *AFRO* created a traveling exhibition consisting of thirty photographs that highlighted African American life and history through the lens of children. Curated by the *Afro-American Newspaper* staff in coordination with the Banneker-Douglass Museum, this exhibition was divided into six themes: Growing Up Afro; Worth A Thousand Words; Children of All Seasons; Games We Play; Golden School Days and A Child Shall Lead.

The Banneker-Douglass Museum would like to thank its generous sponsor, Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, for making this exhibition possible.

A Centennial Retrospective: Maryland Delta Chapters Through The Decades

July 9, 2013 - November 13, 2013

On January 13, 1913, twenty-two college women at Howard University formalized their stance against racial prejudice and for women's suffrage by founding Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. During 2013, the Sorority celebrated 100 years of cherished sisterhood and committed service. There are over 900 Delta Chapters throughout the United States and internationally, marking this occasion. *A Centennial Retrospective: Maryland Delta Chapters through the Decades* highlighted 91 years of sisterhood, scholarship, and service in the state of Maryland. This unique exhibition was on display for the month of July and a portion of the exhibit was extended until November 2013.



Generation Champion: Contemporary Reflections by Young Artists

August 9, 2013 - January 30, 2014



Generation Champion was the companion exhibit to *Growing Up AFRO*. This exhibition showcased the works of young artists who shared their unique perspectives on childhood today. Like *AFRO*, *Generation Champion* was split into four sections: "Fighting the Good Fight," "What's in a Word," "Good News Travels," and "Kids Will Be Kids." This exhibition was a community initiative that engaged children between the ages of 4-17 and challenged them to look at history from a different aspect.

Peace Be Within These Walls: The Story of the Banneker-Douglass Museum

November 26, 2013 - December 20, 2014

Peace Be Within These Walls: The Story of the Banneker-Douglass Museum was an inspirational exhibition, which celebrated the thirty-year anniversary of the Banneker-Douglass Museum. Unlike most museums, the BDM shares a unique bond to a local grassroots movement that united a group of dedicated individuals to fight tirelessly to save Mt. Moriah AME Church from demolition. This exhibition provided a rare glimpse into the makings of this museum, while showcasing fine art and artifacts from the Banneker-Douglass Museum's permanent collection. Deeply rooted in sacrifice, determination, and struggle, *Peace Be Within These Walls* looked to inspire the next generation of change makers.



Who is Herbert M. Frisby?

February 22, 2014 - August 23, 2014



Who is Herbert M. Frisby? chronicled the life and legacy of a devoted son of Maryland. During his time, Herbert Milton Frisby was renowned as an Arctic researcher, teacher, and collector of Maryland African American history. Inspired by fellow Marylander Matthew Henson, Frisby became the second African American to reach the North Pole. Dr. Frisby was also instrumental in bringing recognition to Henson's explorations into the North Pole alongside Admiral Robert Peary.

This awe-inspiring exhibition showcased photographs and artifacts from Frisby's home museum – affectionately called *The Igloo* – and treasured artifacts and objects he acquired during his many travels abroad.

True to Form: Expressions of Community Art

September 12, 2014 - January 20, 2015

The Banneker-Douglass Museum was proud to present our inaugural community exhibition, *True to Form: Expressions of Community Art*. This unique exhibition was a community-based initiative that highlighted artists and collectors throughout the state, who were truly passionate about their creative genre. Collectively, these twelve artists dared to live out loud and communicate vibrantly through their artistic mediums. Whether it's through a sketch that reminds us of yesteryear, pieces that give us a sense of cultural identity, or an homage to our Commander in Chief, *True to Form* looked to inspire everyone.



Hometown Teams: How Sports Shaped America

February 7, 2015 – March 28, 2015

Hometown Teams: How Sports Shaped America was brought to the BDM in partnership with the [Maryland Humanities Council](#) and the [Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service](#). The exhibition centered around our nation's love for sports and the place where it all begins — in our hometowns. We play them on ball fields and sandlots, on courts and on ice, in parks and playgrounds, even in the street. From pick-up games to organized leagues, millions of Americans of all ages play sports. Win or lose, we yearn to compete and play another day. If we're not playing sports, we're watching them. We sit in the stands and root for the local high school team, or gather on the sideline and cheer on our sons and daughters as they take their first swing or score their first goal. Hometown sports are more than just games — they shape our lives and unite us and celebrate who we are as Americans.

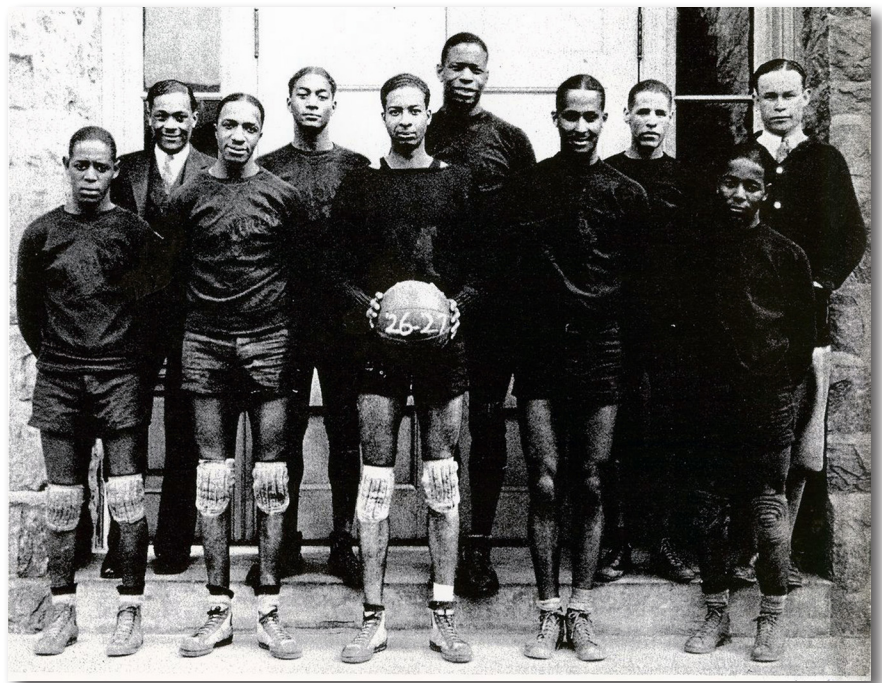
Hometown Teams was made possible in Maryland by the Maryland Humanities Council. *Hometown Teams* is part of [Museum on Main Street](#), a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and State Humanities Councils nationwide. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress.



Untold Stories: Athletes of Maryland's Historically Black Colleges and Universities

February 7 - October 17, 2015

Untold Stories: Athletes of Maryland's Historically Black Colleges and Universities was the companion exhibit to the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition *Hometown Teams*. *Untold Stories* highlighted athletes who matriculated through the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Maryland. Featured athletes included Hall of Fame offensive tackle, and first African American to coach a professional football team, Art Shell; Maryland's tennis pioneer, Ann Koger; and two-time Olympic Gold and Silver Medalist, Rochelle Stevens. Artifacts showcased in the exhibition ranged from a megaphone used by spirit squads in the 1950's to a commemorative medallion from the 1986 Pro Football Hall of Fame induction ceremony. The exhibition was produced in partnership with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.



ASALH at 100: Celebrating a Century of Black Life, Culture, and History

Guest Curator: Dr. Lopez Matthews, Jr.

February 21 – September 19, 2015

The BDM was proud to join the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) in celebration of its centennial. This exhibition provided an overview of ASALH's history, including all of its past presidents and annual themes. Also on display were a sampling of the many scholastic works created by "the founders of Black History Month," including first editions of the *Journal of Negro History* and *A Century of Negro Migration*. This exhibition taught visitors why the organization (when describing its centennial) says, "To explore the history of ASALH is to glimpse a people's strivings, their institution building. To bring that history to life in one's imagination is to walk with giants." - [ASALH](#)

Dr. Lopez Matthews, Jr., is the Digital Production Librarian for the Howard University Libraries and the Moorland-Spangarn Research Center. He is also an adjunct professor at Coppin State University, where he teaches courses in United States, African American, and World histories. Dr. Matthews was appointed to the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture in 2014.

The Art of a People: Finding a Way Out of No Way

Guest Curator: Lilian Thomas Burwell & Friends

November 14, 2015 – April 30, 2016



The story of African Americans in America has been a blueprint not simply for survival, but a testament to the resiliency the human spirit itself. In those seemingly empty spaces as in need itself, humanity has found its potential and built Phoenixes out of ashes. -- Lilian Thomas Burwell

In this exhibition artist Lilian Thomas Burwell invited and joined Adjoa Burrowes, Lynn Coates, Oletha DeVane, Martha Jackson-Jarvis, Letitia Lee, Betty Murchison, Michael Platt & Carol Beane, Gail Shaw-Clemons in demonstrating through the language of their art how African Americans have, as Burwell explains "historically not only endured but, triumphed in the process of overcoming."

Celebrating Our Quilts: Quilting's Role in African American Life

September 22, 2015 – May 23, 2016

One of the oldest forms of visual artistic expression used by African Americans is quilting. Today, there is great interest in the purpose, myth, distinctive patterns, bold color choice, and creative displays of storytelling associated within African American quilting. This exhibit highlighted several selected quilts and blankets from the Banneker-Douglass Museum collection. Additional photographs complemented the presentation of these quilts and explored some of the purposes, legends, and styles associated with quilting in the African American culture and community.

Celebrating Our Quilts was the product of the Curatorial Technician Assistantship program. Our 2015 Technician, Morgan Russell, worked in the Collections department, cataloging and researching the BDM Textile collection.

