School programs

Fall 2012–Summer 2013

The arts can take you places!
Museum Info

National Museum of African Art
950 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20560-0708

Mailing Address
Smithsonian Institution
National Museum of African Art
P.O. Box 37012 MRC 0708
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012

Hours + Admission
10 a.m.–5:30 p.m. daily, closed December 25
Free admission

Telephone Numbers
202.633.4600
202.357.4879 Fax
202.633.0030 Museum Store

Transportation
Buses may drop off and pick up groups on Independence Avenue or on Jefferson Drive between the Smithsonian Institution Building (known as the Castle) and the Arts and Industries Building. Due to limited parking, Metrorail is a good transportation option; take the Blue or Orange Line to the Smithsonian Station.

Accessibility
The museum is fully accessible. Parking for the disabled is available on Jefferson Drive near the Freer Gallery of Art and the Smithsonian Institution Building. Amplification headsets are available at the information desk. Sign language, oral and cued-speech interpreters are available by calling 202.633.4633, at least two weeks before your visit.

Food
The museum does not have a restaurant or a place to store bag lunches. For information about food services at the Smithsonian Institution, inquire at the Information Desk or call 202.633.1000.

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... a child’s first inspiration through the arts can be a life-changing experience. . . . Learning through the arts reinforces critical academic skills in reading, language arts and math and provides students with the skills to creatively solve problems.

First Lady Michelle Obama
May 2009
The arts are a universal language. At the National Museum of African art, our educators create opportunities for students to engage with and learn through art and the world of ideas, experiences, and emotions it represents. We echo the President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities in advocating for the arts to “be part of the education of every child in America. The power of the arts and humanities to foster creativity in developing minds, to engage and motivate students in school, and to prepare all children for productive futures is essential for the future of the nation’s cultural and economic life.”

Research has shown that children whose imaginations are stirred by the arts are more fully engaged in school. The arts energize students to improve those problem-solving and critical-thinking skills that reinforce their developing proficiency in reading, writing, science, history, social studies, and math. Our programs offer them exciting opportunities to encounter the arts through discovery, creation, and experimentation.

Inspiring stories await you at the National Museum of African Art. Discover early cultural expressions rooted in our collection that spans six centuries from ancient Mali and Nigeria to present-day Africa. Interact with modern artists who chronicle the contemporary world and our place in it. We not only offer hands-on and interactive activities in our programs, but we are also here to help teachers meet national education standards of learning and foster themes of diversity and commonality across cultures and continents.

Each year thousands of students participate in exciting educational programs in our museum, on our website, and in their classrooms. Our School Programs 2012-13 is a summary of museum resources, activities, and new media opportunities that provide useful information and ideas for engaging students. Introduce your students to the richness and diversity of works of art in selected exhibitions and collections at the National Museum of African Art. Choose from an array of activities to make meaning and memories together!

Deborah Stokes
Curator for Education
K-12 and Teacher Programs

You cannot fully understand your own life without knowing and thinking beyond your life, your own neighborhood, and even your own nation.

Johnnetta B. Cole, Director
National Museum of African Art
Museum Resources

Exhibitions

Connect the arts with science!
African Cosmos: Stellar Arts
Through December 9, 2012

Explore the intersection of traditional and contemporary African arts through African Cosmos: Stellar Arts. Learn about Africa’s contributions to astronomy, and discover Africa in a whole new light!

Like musical instruments, stars, through their natural oscillations (vibrations), can be transformed into audible sound waves. Astronomers detect them through the science of asteroseismology. They artificially boost the sounds to bring them into human hearing range, where they sound like ghostly whistling, drumming, humming, or bells ringing, depending on the speed of their vibration.

The educational programming associated with the exhibition African Cosmos: Stellar Arts is in partnership with seven Smithsonian museums. A galaxy of pan-institutional activities is available online at http://africa.si.edu/exhibits/cosmos/education.html.

Classroom Lesson Plans: Astronomical Arts

What do art and science have in common? Artists and scientists are both keen observers of the world around them. By using Astronomical Arts, teachers can engage their students in understanding basic scientific principles through the arts and meet objectives in both subject areas. Each lesson plan includes an overview with background information and objectives, an implementation plan, activities with science- and/or math-based art-making challenges, materials, key terms, assessment guidelines, classroom discussion questions, pertinent national science and visual arts standards, and online and print resources for extended explorations.

To download classroom lesson plans (PDF), visit http://africa.si.edu/exhibits/cosmos/education.html

Join our Cosmos online community

Blog: COSMOSDIARY http://africanocosmosdiary.wordpress.com/
Twitter @africanocosmos
Flickr: http://www.flickr.com/groups/africanstargazers/
Reflect on Definitions of Identity
Lalla Essaydi: Revisions

Through February 24, 2013
Moroccan artist Lalla Essaydi re-frames stereotypical notions of culture and gender by creating images that call attention to the highly complex realities faced by Arab women. Many students with an affinity for bicultural and/or multiracial households in the United States can relate to Essaydi’s work.

Explore World Arts and Cultures
Walt Disney–Tishman African Art Collection Highlights

Ongoing
Focus on questions of history and different approaches to the human ideal by considering messages of power and status conveyed through form, gesture, and material.
Six activities for use in the classroom or at home, can be found at http://africa.si.edu/exhibits/africanvision/athome.html

Imagine Form and Function
African Mosaic: Building a Museum Collection

Ongoing
Learn about design and the form and function of objects in the permanent collection by exploring the exhibition and drawing in the gallery with your students.

below, left
Reliquary guardian figure
Kota peoples, Gabon
Late 19th to early 20th century
Wood, copper alloys, iron, bone
51 x 24 x 5 cm
(20 1/16 x 9 7/16 x 1 15/16 in.)
Gift of Walt Disney World Co., a subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company, 2005-6-105

right
Samuel Broth Nartey
Ga peoples, Ghana
Nokia cell phone coffin
2007
Wood, paint, cloth
180.3 x 58.4 x 36.8 cm
(71 x 23 x 14 1/2 in.)
Anonymous donor, 2009-3-1
**Curricular Connections**

Teaching materials and resources, offered for many of the museum’s major exhibitions, are designed to broaden and deepen both teacher and student engagement with the arts. Intended for use by K-12 teachers, these resources emphasize students’ active exploration of selected cultures and encourage ongoing dialogues about the meaning of art in their lives.

Teaching materials and resources are available online at [http://africa.si.edu/exhibits/resources.html](http://africa.si.edu/exhibits/resources.html).

Consult with the museum’s staff about ways to include African art in your curriculum. Contact Deborah Stokes at 202.633.4632 or email StokesD@si.edu.

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**Plan a Field Trip**

Pre-registration is required for all school programs. Please make reservations as far in advance of the requested date and time as possible. Programs are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Our February programs are especially popular during Black History month.

If a group is late, the activity will be modified to fit within the program time. Due to the large number of program requests we receive during the school year, cancellations must be made one week prior by phone; call 202.633.4633.
**Gallery Lessons**

**Jambo!**  
10:30 a.m.  
1 hour  
Maximum 40 participants  
Discover the National Museum of African Art with us! Bring your students to tour one of our exciting exhibitions and learn about unique museum architecture. We’re underground! Examine objects and ideas through a variety of age-appropriate activities. Our guides use imaginative strategies to help students learn focused looking, and they tailor their tours to the needs of specific themes, grades, and ages. Touchable objects available upon request.

Please choose from our exhibitions listed on page 2, or for further information, visit our website at africa.si.edu to prepare for your class trip.

To schedule a tour, call Frank Esposito at 202.633.4633. Confirmation of your tour reservation will be emailed to you along with related educational materials.

**Special Programs**

**Select Fridays**  
November 2, 2012–May 24, 2013  
D.C. public and charter schools that need transportation assistance should call 202.204.7751 for more detailed information. The National Museum of African Art is partnering with Arts for Every Student Program (AFES) through the D.C. Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative to provide this service.

**Music**  
**Sounds of Africa**  
10:30 a.m.  
1 1/2 hours maximum  
Maximum 25 participants  
Elementary–Middle School  
This engaging and interactive program introduces African culture through the distinct sounds, dynamic beats, and polyrhythms of African music and percussion instruments. Award-winning Ugandan musician and educator Daniel Ssuuna uses drums (long drum, main drum/rhythm, big drum/beat), cordophones (bow lyre), idiophones (xylophone, shekere), and the lamellophone (mbira/thumb piano) to demonstrate musical sounds, patterns, repetitions, and rhythms. Students participate in a group performance with a variety of musical instruments at the end of the program. Yes, it sounds great, and it’s fun!
**Language Arts**

**LET’S READ ABOUT AFRICA**

10:30 a.m.

**MAXIMUM 40 PARTICIPANTS**

**ELEMENTARY–MIDDLE SCHOOL**

NMAFA’s storytelling program is specifically developed to reinforce early literacy skills. Storytelling, like reading, relies on imagination. With imagination comes the same active participation a reader uses to understand and embrace text. Facilitated by acclaimed storyteller Diane Macklin—an inspired performer who works in the African griot tradition as poet, praise singer, and musician—stories jump, leap, and spring off the page.

Stories selected for Let’s Read about Africa incorporate significant life lessons, such as the importance of honesty, kindness, and overcoming obstacles. Themes of diversity and commonality are at the heart of all the stories we share. Each page of the selected book is projected on a large screen to create a theater-style atmosphere in which each child can practice silent reading while viewing the outstanding book illustrations during the performance.

**AFRICA BOOK CLUB**

Africa Book Club is designed to excite reading readiness while it underscores the contributions of diverse populations in an increasingly global world.

Materials include

- printed “passports” for each student,
- stickers to be awarded upon completion of assigned goals,
- booklist, ideas for activities, and strategies for incorporating recommended books into classroom lesson plans, cross-disciplinary connections, and reading at home with family,
- storytelling podcasts
  (africa.si.edu/radio_africa/index.html),
  including
  - *The Leopard’s Drum* by Jessica Souhami (Francis Lincoln Ltd, 1995) as told by Johnnetta Betsch Cole.
  - *Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti* by Gerald McDermott (Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1972) as told by Diane Macklin.
I wanted to share with you how we used the Africa Book Club passports that you gave to our first graders. . . . [They] served as the foundation of a home-reading initiative. We had great success and we owe you a very big thank you for giving us the idea and the tools to get rolling!

Michelle Koerner
John Eaton Elementary School
Come Draw with Us!
Date and time by arrangement
2 hours
Maximum 25 participants
Middle School–High School
Draw inspiration from original works of art! Students sit in front of original works of art in the museum’s galleries and explore line, form, and texture. They are encouraged to experiment with individual drawing styles and approaches. All materials are supplied.
To request a morning or afternoon session, contact Deborah Stokes at 202.633.4632 or email StokesD@si.edu.

Workshops by Request
Are you interested in scheduling a workshop for your active K–sixth graders or group from home school? We can design a program to support your specific teaching needs.
To request a workshop, contact Deborah Stokes at 202.633.4632 or email StokesD@si.edu.

Visual Arts

Studio Art Workshops
10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
2 hours
Maximum 30 participants
Elementary–High School
Studio art workshops inspired by museum exhibitions and customized for school curricula are available to school groups during the week. Workshops introduce students to the historical origin and social significance of themes, including:

- Woven Treasures: Explore the textile arts and cultures of Africa
  Choose one:
  - Asante Adinkra Stamped Cloth, Ghana
  - Fon Story Cloth, Republic of Benin
  - Yoruba Indigo-dyed Adire, Nigeria
  - Kuba Grass Cloth, Democratic Republic of the Congo
  - Asante Kente Weaving, Ghana
  - Senufo Korhogo Cloth, Côte d’Ivoire

- The Art of African Masquerade
- Ndebele Dolls of South Africa
- beadwork of Africa
- The Healing Pots of Southeast Nigeria
- African Cosmos and the Egyptian Scarab

To request a workshop, contact Deborah Stokes at 202.633.4632 or email StokesD@si.edu.

Back by popular demand!

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Classroom Resources

Objects in Your Classroom
Learn how our Education Teaching Collection can be part of your classroom. Our one-of-a-kind lending library of objects provides unique hands-on experiences. Contact Deborah Stokes at 202.633.4632 or email StokesD@si.edu.

Cultural Exchange
Learn how our education department reaches out to schools and communities beyond the museum walls, across the country, and internationally. Be a part of our team and explore ways to involve your students in learning about the arts with other school communities.

Outreach into Your Classroom
Day and time by arrangement
One class only per program
1 hour
Elementary–High School
Museum representatives travel to classrooms, where they introduce students to a variety of African arts (e.g., masks, dress, textiles) or focus on a single African country, such as Mali, Ghana, and Nigeria. Students have a hands-on opportunity to handle objects from the museum’s teaching collection.

Please submit your request at least one month in advance. The program site must be within 20 miles of the museum.

Members of the J.O. Wilson Elementary School French Club receive special certificates.

The arts can take you places!
Teacher Resources

Professional Development

Minimum 10 participants
Maximum 25 participants

The National Museum of African Art offers a variety of teacher workshops that can be customized to meet staff development needs and schedules. All workshops can be adapted for local curricula. Workshops include an introduction to African art, hands-on activities, content experts, and lesson plans.

The participating organization is responsible for organizing and registering teachers. To discuss your staff development needs, contact Deborah Stokes at 202.633.4632 or email StokesD@si.edu.

Visit our Museum Store!
Our museum store has award-winning children’s books, musical instruments, and other teaching aids to enhance learning in your classroom.

Online Resources

Curricular Resources

Elementary–High School
Learn about Africa! Curriculum resources developed for use in the classroom are available at africa.si.edu/exhibits/resources.html. Curriculum resource topics include:

- Mali Empire and Djenne Figures
- Portraits of Mali from the Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives
- Baga Drum, A Figurative Drum from Côte d’Ivoire
- Ntan Drum, An Asante Drum from Ghana
- Gavin Jantjes, A South African Artist
- Grass Roots: African Origins of an American Art
- Central Nigeria Unmasked: Arts of the Benue River Valley
- African Cosmos: Stellar Arts

Equestrian figure (detail)
Inland Niger Delta region, Mali; Possibly 13th to 15th century
Terra cotta, 70.5 cm (27 1/2 in.)
Museum purchase, 86-12-2
Scheduling a Program

Programs are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. The museum sends written confirmation of your program, which serves as your official registration.

To schedule a program
- register online at africa.si.edu/exhibits/form.html
- complete the registration form and fax it to Scheduler at 202.357.4879

Chaperones
One adult chaperone (over 21 years old) must accompany every 15 high school students and every 10 students in elementary through junior high school. Failure to provide sufficient chaperones or to maintain order may result in the group being asked to leave the museum.

Upon Arrival
Present your confirmation slip to the staff member at the Information Desk. It is your proof of a scheduled tour or workshop. Your guide will meet your group at the Information Desk.

Cancellations
If you need to cancel your program, please notify the museum as soon as possible. **Cancellations must be made by phone no less than one week prior to your scheduled program; call 202.633.4633 or 202.633.4632.**
Registration Form

Online: africa.si.edu/exhibits/form.html
Fax: 202.357.4879
Phone: 202.633.4633

CONTACT NAME

SCHOOL OR ORGANIZATION

STREET

CITY

COUNTY STATE ZIP

SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION PHONE

HOME PHONE

NUMBER IN GROUP GRADE LEVEL

TOUR/PROGRAM/OUTREACH OR VIDEO LOAN YOU ARE REQUESTING

1ST CHOICE
DAY REQUESTED M T W TH F DATE TIME

2ND CHOICE
DAY REQUESTED M T W TH F DATE TIME

IF REQUESTED TIMES AND/OR DATES ARE NOT AVAILABLE, MAY WE SCHEDULE YOUR PROGRAM FOR THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE?

○ YES ○ NO

DATES THAT ARE NOT POSSIBLE

DO YOU NEED AN INTERPRETER FOR A DEAF OR HARD-OF-HEARING AUDIENCE?

○ YES ○ NO

PLEASE LET US KNOW ABOUT ANY ACCESSIBILITY CONCERNS FOR YOUR GROUP.

WHAT ASPECT OF AFRICA ARE YOU CURRENTLY STUDYING?
Learning to Look

Teachers
Studies have determined that visitors spend an average of 30 seconds viewing a work of art in a museum.

Instruct your students, either individually or in a group, to view this work of art for 30 seconds, and then put it aside. Ask them to think about the following questions.

- How would you describe the object? What is it? Consider the shape, material, size, abstract designs and/or human features.
- When do you think it was made? Why?
- How do you think it was used? Why?
- After a quick view and discussion, show your students the poster again. Discuss what they may have missed by guiding them through a longer, more focused examination.
- Show your students the photograph of Bedu masqueraders in Côte d’Ivoire. Compare how we see this mask at the National Museum of African Art to how it would be seen in performance in Côte d’Ivoire. Discuss how music, song, costume, choreography, and the audience play a part in any live theater performance.

30-Second Art Challenge!
Did You Know?
The National Museum of African Art is 96 percent underground!

EXPLORE the Smithsonian Institution Building (known as the Castle), the architecture of the Quadrangle, and the Haupt Garden as part of your field trip experience.

LEARN how the complex also includes the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, the S. Dillon Ripley Center, and the Enid A. Haupt Garden, which serves as the “roof” of the African and Asian art museums. The Quadrangle was designed by architect Jean-Paul Carlhian of the firm Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson and Abbott.

DISCOVER other great activities on our webpage africa.si.edu.

One unique regional creation is the use of large, flat plank masks throughout the regional border villages of Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana in West Africa. Early masks were destroyed after colonial governments banned their appearance in the 19th century. By the 1930s, however, new masks, called bedu, began publicly appearing in performance every night at the closing of the harvest season (November and December). Bedu may also be called upon to perform when an important elder of the community has passed or when blessings to the sick are needed. In its many local forms, bedu reflects the ethnic and linguistic diversity of the region.

The lower triangular form of the bedu mask on this poster has a small face with openings for the eyes and mouth cut through to allow the masked dancer to see and breathe. Bold geometric areas painted black, red, green, white, and yellow decorate the mask. Two bent posts connect the top superstructure that consists of a large disc with a hole in the center and four curvilinear pierced areas. These recurring design represent feminine traits.

Curriculum Connections
Visual Arts
Theater
Language Arts
Social Studies
Geography
Geometry