

For Immediate Release

Updated January 8, 2024

The Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) Offers Free Attendance on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Celebrates Black History Month With a Month of Film, Books, Fashion, Food and Comedy

(January 4, 2024, San Francisco, CA)—**The Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD)** offers an array of dynamic programming throughout the month of February for **Black History Month**. With both in person and online events, audiences everywhere can connect with MoAD's programs celebrating Black history, voices, and art. In addition, the museum will celebrate the national observance of the Reverend Dr. **Martin Luther King, Jr's** birthday as a Day of Service, providing **free admission** to the museum and programs throughout the day on **Monday, January 15, 2024**.

In concert with the current exhibitions, attendees will have the opportunity to hear the artists speak about their work. On **Thursday February 8**, Chief of Curatorial Affairs and Public Programs **Key Jo Lee** will lead an artist talk with **Tawny Chatmon** and **Delita Martin**. On **Saturday February 10**, **Lishan AZ** will speak about her exhibit **Eugene's Cove**. Curator **Erin Jenoa Gilbert** will moderate a discussion with San Francisco artist **JoeSam**, along with **Dewey Crumpler** and **Oliver Lee Jackson** on **Sunday, February 25**.

On **Saturday, February 2**, MoAD's Chef in Residence **Jocelyn Jackson** will present ***The Sacred Experience of My Everyday Lagos: Nigerian Cooking at Home and in the Diaspora*** by author **Yewande Komolafe**. Joining **Jackson** and **Komolafe** are chef **Salimatu Amabebe**, and artist and director **Ellen Sebastian Chang** who all have prepared an interactive and sensuous portal for guests to experience flavors and stories and ancestral traditions featured in **Komolafe's** book.

"MoAD's celebration of MLK Day and Black History Month are perfect for visiting the museum for the first time, said Director of Public Programs, Elizabeth Gessel!" "You can help us celebrate art by people of African descent through our exhibitions and public programs. Whether you are interested in visual art, dance, music, poetry, film, theater, food or fashion, there is something for you and your family at MoAD."

Most events during **Black History Month** are either free or free with admission (see below for individual costs), and participants are strongly encouraged to register in advance. The Museum will provide a Zoom link with registration for online events.

Details on individual programs are as follows and can also be found at moadsf.org/calendar/:

Through film, art, performance and dance, our special guests on **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**, will help us reflect on the importance of protest, creativity and diverse communities. **Destiny Arts Junior Company** presents an interactive hip hop performance, and MoAD will screen **Roger Ross Williams'** groundbreaking documentary film *Stamped From the Beginning* (2023, 91 minutes) based on the book by **Ibram X. Kendi**, followed by a discussion about Civil Rights, the law, and reparations. A family art activity and gallery scavenger hunt connects families to our current exhibitions -- **JoeSam.: Text Messages, Spectrum: On Color and Contemporary Art**, **Lishan AZ: Eugene's Cove** and our digital exhibition **The Only Door I Can Open: Women Exposing Prison Through Art and Poetry**. Come together to celebrate the life and achievements of one of our nation's greatest heroes.

MLK Schedule of Events:

Sidewalk

11am-2pm

[Prescott Circus](#) performers from Prescott Elementary in West Oakland will dazzle you with their stilt-walking and interactive performance.

1pm – 4pm

Sidewalk Chalk Art with Jamie Treacy

MoAD Salon

12pm -1pm

[Destiny Arts Junior Company](#) will present a hip hop dance performance and bring in the audience to learn their choreography with them!

2pm -4:30pm

Stamped From the Beginning (2023, 91 minutes) screening followed by a discussion with Dylan Penningroth, author of ***Before the Movement: The Hidden History of Black Civil Rights***, and Eric McDonnell, Chair of the San Francisco Reparations Committee, moderated by Cornelius Moore.

On The Third Floor

11am– 4pm Family Art Activity with Nicole Dixon

Exhibition Galleries

Engage all ages with a gallery scavenger hunt! Receive a prize when the hunt is complete.

[JoeSam: Text Messages](#)

[Spectrum: On Color and Contemporary Art](#)

[Lishan AZ: Eugene's Cove](#)

[Digital Exhibition: The Only Door I Can Open: Women Exposing Prison Through & Poetry](#)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Those interested in volunteering on Monday, January 15th can do so by filling out this [volunteer form](#).

*This day is made possible in part by the generous support of the **Yerba Buena Community Benefit District***

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

Friday, February 2 6pm-7:30pm

Community Voices: Poets Speak

Free Admission

Join **MoAD** and **Black Freighter Press** for the final event in our four-week **Community Voices: Poets Speak** series. This group reading and celebration will feature six poets sharing original poetry written in response to the current exhibitions on view at MoAD. Featured poets include **Briana Grogan, D'mani Thomas, Porsche Veu, LadiRev, Raymond Nat Turner, and Duane Horton**. Light refreshments will be served.

Saturday, February 3 3pm-5pm

MoAD Chef-in-Residence Jocelyn Jackson presents *The Sacred Experience of My Everyday Lagos: Nigerian Cooking at Home and in the Diaspora*

\$12 general admission/\$6 students and seniors/free to MoAD members

The author **Yewande Komolafe**, artist and chef **Salimatu Amabebe**, and artist and director **Ellen Sebastian Chang**, along with MoAD Chef in Residence, **Jocelyn Jackson**, have prepared an interactive and sensuous portal for you to experience the flavors and stories and ancestral traditions of Yewande's book, *My Everyday Lagos: Nigerian Cooking at Home and in the Diaspora*. Arrive with a willingness to invoke deep care and radical hospitality.

Those purchasing *My Everyday Lagos* at the [MoAD Bookstore](#), and the program will include a book signing.

Sunday, February 4, 5pm-6:30pm

[African Book Club](#)

Pay What You Can

Groundfloor

4055 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland

The African Book Club, an ongoing series at MoAD and facilitated by co-Founder Faith Adiele has selected *The Scent of Burnt Flowers* as the month's new read. *The Scent of Burnt Flowers*, a pan-African thriller featured on The Daily Show and Good Morning America is written by author **Blitz Bazawule** who has directed the recent musical version of *The Color Purple*.

Purchase [a copy of the book](#) (you can see all the titles previously discussed on the [MoAD Bookshop](#)), read as much as you can (warning: the ending will be revealed), then come discuss over drinks, snacks and **Afrobeats!**

Thursday, February 8, 6:30pm-8PM

[Spectrum: On Color & Contemporary Art](#)

\$20 general admission/\$10 students and seniors/free for MoAD members

Join us for an artist talk in celebration of MoAD's current exhibition **Spectrum: On Color & Contemporary Art**. Artists Tawny Chatmon and Delita Martin will be in conversation with MoAD's Chief of Curatorial Affairs and Public Programs **Key Jo Lee** to discuss how artists in this group exhibition use color to guide our perception. **Spectrum** brings together a multigenerational and international group of seventeen contemporary Black artists who illuminate the importance of color to both the form and content of their work.

Saturday, February 10, 11am-6pm

THRIVE @ MoAD Community Day

Free Admission Day

Join us every Second Saturday for with free admission to all our exhibitions. Across the globe, museums are increasingly being recognized as having an important role to play in promoting personal and social well-being in partnership with the health care industry. Studies have shown that engagement with art and culture aid in brain function, processing trauma, and reducing the stigma of mental illness.

WALK-IN TICKETS ARE WELCOME AND AVAILABLE.

12pm-2pm family art activity led by teaching artist **Nicole Dixon** in the MoAD lobby.

3pm-4:30pm join us for a conversation with MoAD's Emerging Artist Program awardee **Lishan AZ** about her exhibition [Eugene's Cove](#) in the MoAD Salon. On view until March 3, 2024.

Museum of the African Diaspora and Kaiser Permanente are committed to increasing access to the positive health outcomes of arts engagement and providing resources on overall well-being for our community.

This program is made possible by the generous support of Kaiser Permanente.

Tuesday, February 13, 5:30pm-8pm

Book Launch *Muse: Cicely Tyson and Me, A Relationship in Fashion*

MoAD Members Only

Join us for a conversation with the renowned master couturier, B Michael, to celebrate the release of his book, ***Muse: Cicely Tyson and Me, A Relationship forged in Fashion***. The conversation will be followed by a book signing.

In 2005, B Michael, who has designed for such entertainment royalty as Valerie Simpson, Nancy Wilson, Diahann Carroll, and Whitney Houston received a phone call asking if he would be willing to dress Cicely Tyson for a high-octane weekend hosted by Oprah Winfrey. He said yes, and within a half hour, the queen of Hollywood and Broadway walked through his atelier doors and the energy between them was pure magic. That first interaction led to decades of hand-holding friendship and adoration.

"Muse" is magnificent! B Michael shares the "give and give" of his friendship with Miss Cicely Tyson in a very special, intimate way." – Phylicia Rashad

Thursday, February 15, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Virtual Open Mic

Free

Join MoAD on Zoom for our **virtual Open Mic**. Hosted by poet Nia McAllister, participate in an evening of spoken word, featuring amazing local, national, and international poets. All are welcome to either perform or just watch.

[All interested performers, sign up to read using this form.](#)

[Audience members, join this zoom link to attend.](#)

Saturday, February 24 2pm-4pm

The Black Feminist Guide to the Human Body

\$12 general admission/\$6 students and seniors/free for MoAD members and Lorraine Hansberry subscribers.

The Black Feminist Guide to the Human Body

Playwright: Lisa B. Thompson

Director: Margo Hall

Dramaturg: Amissa Miller

Lisa B. Thompson makes a triumphant return to the Bay Area with her latest work, expanding upon her acclaimed career exploring Black middle class womanhood in America. ***The Black Feminist Guide to the Human Body*** details an intimate examination into aging and health disparities for Black women as well as capitalism's impact on Black bodies and spirits. By combining poetic musings, spiritual dance and a soulful mixtape, this piece offers a community guide as a love song to Black women.

The Black Feminist Guide to the Human Body is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation & Development Fund Project co-commissioned by SEW Productions Inc, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre. VORTEX Repertory Company, FUSEBOX AUSTIN, Pyramid Theatre Company, and NPN. The Creation & Development Fund is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). For more information: www.npnweb.org

Sunday, February 25, 3pm-4:30pm

\$20 general admission/\$10 students and seniors/free for MoAD members

Join us for a curator and artist talk in celebration of MoAD's current exhibition [JOESAM.: Text Messages.](#) Curator **Erin Jenoa Gilbert** will moderate a dialogue with artists **JoeSam.**, **Dewey Crumpler**, and **Oliver Lee Jackson**.

Born in Harlem in 1938, **JoeSam.** is a self-taught, contemporary, mixed media painter and installation artist who has been making work for four decades in San Francisco. In this first Bay Area museum exhibition of the 84-year-old artist's work, guest curator **Erin Jenoa Gilbert**, well-known for her careful scholarship and dedication to bringing forth unsung Black artists, has selected 20 mixed media paintings from key series produced between 1985 and 2020 to draw attention to **JoeSam.'s** experiments in text and abstraction, his activism, and his enduring love for the Bay Area in his work and life.

ABOUT MoAD

The Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) is a contemporary art museum whose mission is to celebrate Black cultures, ignite challenging conversations, and inspire learning through the global lens of the African Diaspora. MoAD is one of only a few museums in the United States dedicated to the celebration and interpretation of art, artists, and cultures from the African Diaspora. The Museum presents exhibitions highlighting contemporary art and artists of African descent and engages its audience through education and public programs that interpret and enhance the understanding of Black art. Founded in 2005, the Museum continues to be a unique, cultural arts staple in the San Francisco Bay Area community.

For more information about MoAD, visit The Museum's website at moadsf.org.

For media information or visuals visit our online press gallery or contact:

Tim Etheridge

Public Relations Consultant for MoAD

tim@moadsf.org

General Information

For general information, the public may visit The Museum's website at moadsf.org or call 415.358.7200.
MoAD is located at 685 Mission Street (at Third), San Francisco, CA.

#