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Reginald F. Lewis Museum Expands Vision, Strives to be Inclusive Cultural Home

October 17, 2011 (Baltimore, MD) — The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture has taken great strides to broaden the cultural diversity of its exhibitions and public programs with several new offerings for the fall season. Fresh priorities for the museum involve the connection of the African American experience to a wide array of cultural groups.

On November 5, two traveling Smithsonian exhibitions, *Beyond Baseball: The Life of Roberto Clemente* and *IndiVisible: African-Native American Lives in the Americas* examine the connection between African Americans and diverse ethnic communities in the United States. Themes for many of the museum's fall lectures and performances are inspired by these two exhibitions. The museum has partnered with both Latino and Native American community organizations to present these programs. In 2012, the museum will host *The Global Africa Project*, an exhibition organized by Museum of Arts & Design (MAD) and the Center for Race and Culture at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) that highlights contemporary African art, design and craft.

“Our vision going forward is to showcase the stories of diverse groups that share the common themes of struggle, challenge and success in common with the African American story,” says Dr. Leslie King-Hammond, museum board chair.

Last month, the museum's board of directors appointed Dr. A. Skipp Sanders as interim executive director to lead the museum in this new course. Dr. Sanders, a Baltimore native who served as deputy state superintendent of schools from 1994 to 2008, has been a staunch advocate of the museum since its opening. During his tenure at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), he supported a partnership that made the Reginald F. Lewis Museum's educational curriculum, *An African American Journey: A Resource Learning the History of African Americans in Maryland*, available to all Maryland public elementary and middle schools. Sanders earned a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and Licentiate in Sacred Theology (S.T.L.) from St. Mary's Seminary and University, and earned a doctorate in education from the University of Pennsylvania.

“America is made of many cultures, but we are one family and we need to know all our relations. If that's the kind of message this museum can broadcast, everyone will feel that this institution is a cultural home for them,” Dr. Sanders explains.

About Reginald F. Lewis Museum

Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture is Baltimore's premier facility highlighting the history and accomplishments of African Americans with a special focus on Maryland's African American community. A Smithsonian affiliate, the museum is the East Coast's largest African American museum occupying an 82,000 square-foot facility with ample permanent and special exhibition space, interactive learning environments, auditorium, resource center, oral history recording studio, museum shop, café, classrooms, meeting rooms, outside terrace and reception areas. The museum is located near Baltimore's Inner Harbor at the corner of Pratt and President Streets. The museum is also accessible on Baltimore's Charm City Circulator Orange and Green Routes. For more information, please call 443-263-1800 or visit the museum's website at www.AfricanAmericanCulture.org.

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