



Experience Black History In Atlanta

(ATLANTA – Jan. 31, 2003) This February in Atlanta, visitors and residents can touch America's past and experience special events that will celebrate, appreciate and educate during Black History Month.

Experience Atlanta's cultural offerings while exploring the lives of significant African-Americans. Agnes Scott College and 7 Stages will present *Hush (Composing Blind Tom Wiggins)*, an abstract narrative of the life of musician Thomas Greene Wiggins, born blind in Georgia in 1849, who became a prodigal composer, albeit a slave. The Alliance Theatre Company presents *Saint Lucy's Eyes*, Feb. 5-March 9. American theatre and film legend Ruby Dee stars in this inspiring story set against the backdrop of the Civil Rights movement.

The **Atlanta History Center** lists myriad events from an annual concert series –Nothin' but the Blues, featuring music of the South including Atlanta street-singer blues from the 1960s, to a day of learning about the life of David Drake on February 2. Arguably the most famous enslaved African American potter, guests can explore Drake's dramatic life-story and fascinating work through a one-man performance by actor Carlton James Richards, Jr. View Drake's extraordinary work at "*Shaping Traditions: Folk Art in a Changing South*, one of the Center's signature exhibitions. On February 9, join prominent African-American families of Atlanta for "We Built This City;" a panel discussion on the influence of African American families on Atlanta's history.

Meet family descendants of company "K" of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry at **Cyclorama** on Feb. 1-2. Featured as the Black unit in the movie "Glory," this Civil War reenactment group will provide guests with a living history on the life of a soldier.

The **Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta** will present Jewish-American Bassist David Chevan and African-American Pianist Warren Byrd of "The Afro-Semitic Experience," on February 27. Known as a group with "multi-cultural soul," this renown band blends the cultural and musical heritage of the Jewish and African Diaspora to create a unique form of jazz.

At the **Michael C. Carlos Museum**, guests can reach the far past at "The Art of Sub-Saharan Africa." This permanent exhibit features wood and metal sculpture, weaponry, and bead, fiber and textile works from the many groups residing in Mali, Guinea, the Congo and Angola. Explore the past of ancient Egypt, Nubia and the Near East through the Museum's permanent collection of ten decorated coffins along with mummies, canopic jars, amulets, jewelry and more.

The **High Museum of Art** will present two lectures in celebration of Black History Month, beginning with "African Presence in the Americas" on Feb. 6. On Feb. 8, explore the African art of the Richman collection at "For This World and Beyond."

Explore the art collection of prominent local African-American, Dr. Otis Thrash Hammonds at the **Hammonds House Galleries & African American Art**. This nationally-known African American fine art museum, presents original prints, collages, Haitian paintings, African masks and a variety of changing works by notable artist. Located in the historic West End, the museum and resource center were founded based on the collecting legacy of Dr. Otis Thrash Hammonds, an African American physician and arts patron who died in 1985.

If you are looking for a wonderful family outing, take the children for a morning of fun and trivia at the **African-American History Quiz** on Feb. 22 at Clark Atlanta University. Then, head to **Sweet Auburn** for a tour of this neighborhood that was the heart of African-American commerce and culture at the turn of the century – and make sure to stop by the heralded curb market for a taste of true soul food. Finish off by visiting the **Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site** to learn about the life and accomplishments of one of Atlanta’s most powerful global leaders and the struggles of African-Americans during the Civil Rights Movement.

For full listings and more Black History Month events, please visit www.atlanta.net.

Established in 1913, the ACVB is a private, nonprofit organization created exclusively to market metro Atlanta and Georgia as premier conventions, meetings and leisure destinations in the regional, national and international marketplace and to favorably impact the Atlanta economy through conventions and tourism.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Lauren Kenworthy
Public Relations Specialist
404.521.6649
lkenworthy@atlanta.net

Brandy Humphries
Public Relations Manager
404.521.6645
bhumphries@atlanta.net