

Black History 101 Mobile Museum



Sponsorship Packet

Founder and Curator:

Khalid el-Hakim

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Black History 101 Mobile Museum



The Black History 101 Mobile Museum™ is one of the most innovative educational projects in the nation. The Black History 101 Mobile Museum™ is virtually a museum on wheels. It was established to address the needs of an educational system with economic and academic challenges. Budget cuts in educational programs in Michigan make it difficult for some schools to have field trips to museums. The Black History 101 Mobile Museum™ brings a museum right to the schools and neighborhoods. Students will be able to see rare artifacts and read stories of the achievements, contributions, and struggles of African-Americans. Engaging exhibits will reinforce classroom lessons and expand students' prior knowledge base.

People will be immediately drawn to the artwork on the exterior of the museum, which was conceived by the award-winning and internationally known artist Tyree Guyton of the Heidelberg Project. On the inside of the mobile museum there is an eye-catching exhibition space designed by The Design Center of the University of Detroit Mercy and masterfully constructed by the skills trade students of Young Detroit Builders.

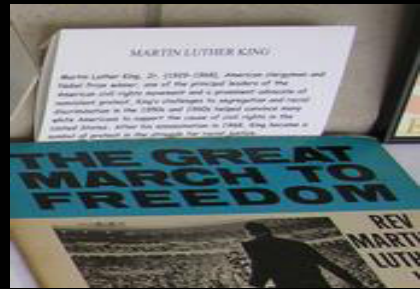
The Black History 101 Mobile Museum™ will showcase one of the most unique collections of black memorabilia in the country. The Bell Collection is a collection of over 1,500 diverse artifacts ranging from slavery to hip hop culture. Khalid el-Hakim is a 36-year-old Detroit Public School teacher who started this collection 15 years ago. Khalid was inspired to start collecting black memorabilia by his college professor, Dr. David Pilgrim, founder and curator of Ferris State University's Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia. The Black History 101 Mobile Museum™ will sponsor several exhibits a year. Exhibits can also be tailored to specific needs of classroom teachers.

The Institute of Black Culture sponsors include:

The Design Center of The University of Detroit Mercy
Tyree Guyton
The Heidelberg Project
Young Detroit Builders
Proof of D12
Iron Fist Records
New Rising Sun Entertainment

Black History 101 Mobile Museum

Over 1,500 artifacts from the slave era to hip hop culture



Black History 101 Mobile Museum



Biography of Khalid el-Hakim

Khalid el-Hakim is the founder and president of the Institute of Black Culture. A dynamic young educator with 10 years experience in Detroit Public Schools, he received his Bachelors of Science in social studies and business education at Ferris State University. As a music exec he has managed various artists including 2006 Grammy award nominee Umar Bin Hassan, platinum award-winning artist Proof of D12, Taja Sevelle, and Versiz. His passion for education and history led him to start collecting Black memorabilia 15 years ago. Named *The Bell Collection* (after his family), this award-winning collection of over 1,500 artifacts date from slavery to hip hop culture. *The Bell Collection* will be the featured collection in the Black History 101 Mobile Museum.

Black History 101 Mobile Museum



Credits and Awards

CREDITS AND AWARDS:

- *2007 Distinguished Citizen Award (City of Detroit)
- *2007 Curator, Hip Hop memorabilia exhibit, Hip Hop Congress National Conference (Ohio University)
- *2006 Segment Producer, "Beef: The Series" (Black Entertainment Television)
- *2006 Spirit of Detroit Award (City of Detroit)
- *2005 Organizer, Millions More Movement as Chairman of the Progressive Artists for the Millions More Movement (PAMMM)
- *2002 Testimonial Resolution (City of Detroit)
- *Negotiated contract for The Last Poets to be featured on Common's 2006 Grammy award nominated song "The Corner"
- *Speaker on the topic of Hip Hop and Activism at national conferences Allied Media Conference and National Conference of Race and Ethnicity (NCORE)
- *Co-Producer of the Take the Land project, the first compilation of poetry and hip hop dedicated to the importance of land ownership
- *Entertainment coordinator for the Global Non-Violence Conference(2005) and NAACP's Freedom Weekend(2006)

What people are saying about the Black History 101 Mobile Museum....



*"The ultimate expression of Hip Hop is its preservation!
Keep doing what you do!"*

**-Grand Master Caz, Hip Hop pioneer
(Cold Crush Brothers), 6/17/07**

*"Peace and blessings my brother. This is what the world needs,
education of Hip Hop history."*

**-Grand Wizard Theodore, Hip Hop pioneer
(inventor of the DJ style of scratching), 6/17/07**



*"This museum is like a cruise through the time continuum. You can't
help yourself from smiling and crying at the same time witnessing the
richness of the Black Experience."*

-Brother J of X Clan, 9/24/07

*"The scripture teaches us that we are destroyed due to the lack of
knowledge. This is the right time to put the mobile museum in its
historical and cultural place so that we might save our future to
ensure that we are not destroyed."*

-Professor Griff of Public Enemy, 6/21/07



What people are saying about the Black History 101 Mobile Museum....



"We as African people in struggle too often have had short-term memories as a way to anesthetize our pain, but the Black History 101 Mobile Museum wakes us from our slumber to heal our wounds."

-Bruce George, Co-Founder of Def Poetry Jam, 6/21/07

"Your exhibit has continually enriched, enhanced and enlightened our program attendees with an extraordinarily display of Black History artifacts. I am deeply grateful and thank you again for your generosity."

-Barbara-Rose Collins, Detroit City Council Member, 2/27/07



"Khalid is a wonderful human, whom I thoroughly believe in. Shock value is something I made a name on and shocking people into culture is an incredible invention, in which I think Khalid's artifacts do. It wakes you up in a Big Ben alarm clock fashion."

-Big Proof, Multi-platinum Hip Hop artist, 6/7/05



Black history to hit road Detroit

Teacher plans to take his mobile museum of African-American memorabilia to neighborhoods

May 7, 2007

BY CECIL ANGEL
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Khalid el-Hakim is an avid collector of African-American memorabilia and has enough artifacts to stock a small museum.

Among the items in his collection are a fund-raising letter written by Booker T. Washington dated March 20, 1915; a signed hockey stick from Willie O'Ree, the first black man to play in the National Hockey League, and a scrapbook kept by Robert Miles, a Michigan Ku Klux Klansman.

Although el-Hakim has displayed items from his 1,500-plus collection in the atrium of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Building in Detroit and other places, he now has a bigger vision.

At a time when budget cuts are making it hard for some students to visit the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and other museums, el-Hakim wants to bring the museum to them.

"I just had this vision of having this trailer and going into neighborhoods," said el-Hakim, a Detroit Public Schools social studies teacher.

He has drawn help in making a mobile museum a reality. The trailer, which sits in a vacant lot on Wildemere Street on Detroit's west side, is being renovated.

His mother, Dorothy McKinney of Detroit, gave him the 9 1/2 -by 30-foot trailer that had belonged to his late stepfather.

Students and teachers at the Design Center of the University of Detroit Mercy volunteered to develop blueprints for the museum. And students and staff members at Young Detroit Builders' Youth Build/Americorps, a GED/job training program for ages 18-24, are working on the project with Havana Construction.

"They said it was a mobile museum, and I wanted to be part of it," said Tavun Debold, 18, of Detroit, who has worked as a volunteer to get the trailer in shape.

Young Detroit Builders' instructors Derrick Tagger, 32, of Detroit and John Wurtsmith, 43, of Flat Rock also have volunteered on their days off.

"I thought it would be good for the community," Wurtsmith said.

The trailer has been gutted, new windows and wiring have been installed, and plywood has been put on the ceiling. Tagger pointed out an area near the door where a computer station will be installed for children to access the Internet.

Across town in Indian Village, the living room of el-Hakim's apartment is lined with posters, photographs, paintings, dolls and other artifacts, all part of the Bell Collection. He gave it that name to honor his family, he said.

His collection has items from the 1800s such as a bank that is caricature of a black man in a top hat with red exaggerated lips and rolling eyes, and posters featuring the late rapper Proof.

"It's really a diverse collection," el-Hakim said. "It dates from slavery all the way to hip-hop culture. A lot of people take these items and put them in private collections and the people don't have access to them."

El-Hakim said he began collecting 15 years ago, inspired in part by Ferris State University professor David Pilgrim's Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia. Hakim studied business education and social studies at Ferris State and graduated in 1994.

Wright also was an inspiration, he said.

"If I can leave an imprint on a child the way the Charles H. Wright Museum left an imprint on me," el-Hakim said. "Then my job is done."

Contact CECIL ANGEL at 313-223-4531 or angel@freepress.com.

Class is in Session:

Khalid el-Hakim and Black History 101 Museum

Interview by Danielle Phillips

I met Khalid el-Hakim at the Redd Apple Gallery downtown Detroit. There was a debate going on about Hip Hop's current state. I spoke loudly from Camouflage Magazine's perspective.

Khalid was silent but closely observed the various personalities and listened to the opinions that bounced off the walls and into the ears of anyone who'd listen. Although Khalid was silent, I knew he had so much to say. Experience and knowledge perforated through his demeanor and spoke louder than any voice or opinion expressed that night.

When Khalid speaks, he provokes thought in those around him with his collection of ideas and history. Khalid was inspired to make history, tangible. While a student at Ferris State University, his professor, Dr. David Pilgrim, an avid collector of racist memorabilia started a museum called the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia.

"My first piece was a little figurine of a black boy sitting on a pot, eating watermelon. I picked it up in a gas station in the Tennessee on my first trip down South 1991.

"Since 1994 I've been employed as a teacher. For the past 10 years, I've taught Social Studies in the Detroit Public Schools. I know from first hand experience that our youth have not been exposed to the history of the Black experience. They have mainly been taught fragments of history from slavery and the civil rights era. For many of our youth, there is no sense of pride about who they are. They see no connection between the legacy of our people and their current condition. So, the main purpose of the Black History 101 Mobile Museum is to teach people about the achievements, contributions, and struggles of African Americans by exposing people to rare museum quality artifacts."

The mobile museum birthed from the idea of providing people access to a museum who will not otherwise visit cultural centers. "In many urban areas, people especially the youth don't have access to museums. And consequently, many museums are having a hard time attracting people on a consistent basis to their institutions. So, the Black History 101 Mobile Museum is going right to the neighborhoods!"

Over 1500 artifacts are a part of the collection dating from the slave era to current Hip Hop culture. The artifacts represent music, movies, sports, civil rights, Black Power, literature, racist memorabilia and pop culture of the Black experience. Some of the rare pieces include letters written by Booker T Washington, Hon. Elijah Muhammad, Ralph Bunche and Rosa Parks.

"The Black History 101 Mobile Museum will be in various neighborhoods in the Spring 2008. It will be on the Heidelberg Project at least once a week. It will also have weekly open hours at the Artist Village in the spring. We have had several invitations to travel to colleges and universities around the country."

Khalid and Black History 101 Mobile Museum have a busy schedule ahead.

"I have recently been invited to do a Hip Hop exhibit at the Brotherhood/Sister Sol organization in Harlem. I've also been invited to U of M-Ann Arbor in the spring. I'm working on Black History Month lecture tours with Professor Griff of Public Enemy and Brother J of X Clan. I've accepted a co-chair position to organize the 40th anniversary of the 1968 Olympics Black Power protest of Tommy Smith and John Carlos. This commemoration is sponsored by the Robert Shumake Relay Races in April 2008."

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for the remainder of this article.