



TulalipCares.org

## Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

**NAME OF AGENCY:** Northwest African American Museum

**ADDRESS:** 2300 S. Massachusetts Street, Seattle, WA 98144

**CONTACT:** (206) 518-6000; <http://www.naamnw.org>

**GENERAL GOALS:** Our mission is to spread knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of the histories, arts and cultures of people of African descent for the enrichment of all.

### **SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:**

Thanks to the generous support of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund, the Northwest African American Museum (NAAM) was able to present the exhibition The Harmon and Harriet Kelley Collection of African American Art: Works on Paper from November 21, 2015-April 17, 2016. During the run of this exhibition NAAM welcomed 2,912 regular museum visitors who saw the exhibition, as well as an additional 2,265 visitors who saw the exhibition while attending our public programs.

For more information, please see the attached report from Northwest African American Museum.



NORTHWEST  
AFRICAN AMERICAN  
MUSEUM

**Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions  
Report: Q2 2015 14.2**

NORTHWEST AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM  
[www.naamnw.org](http://www.naamnw.org)

**Project Summary and Assessment:**

Thanks to the generous support of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund, the Northwest African American Museum (NAAM) was able to present the exhibition *The Harmon and Harriet Kelley Collection of African American Art: Works on Paper* from November 21, 2015-April 17, 2016. During the run of this exhibition NAAM welcomed 2,912 regular museum visitors who saw the exhibition, as well as an additional 2,265 visitors who saw the exhibition while attending our public programs.



*The Harmon and Harriet Kelley  
Collection of African American Art:  
Works on Paper is installed in NAAM's  
Northwest Gallery. Photo by NAAM staff.*

In addition to providing our community members with the unique opportunity to learn about the work and lives of some of the most important African American artists from the 1800s to the early twentieth-century, the *Kelley Collection* exhibition also provided a catalyst for several programs that were held at NAAM:

## 1. Kelley Collection Painting Courses

The “Harmon and Harriet Kelley Art Collection: Art Workshop Series” provided free opportunities for participants to learn about the *Harmon and Harriet Kelley Collection of African American Art* and receive hands-on instruction from a professional artist. We worked with local artist Valerie Collymore who designed the content of each session around the artworks in the *Kelley Collection* exhibit.

Nineteen participants took part in the three sessions which took place on January 16, 23, and 30, 2016. Interest was so great that the classes filled up even before we rolled out our main marketing push. Participants ranged in age from young adults to senior citizens and represented the amazing racial diversity of our community. One of our participants wrote that her favorite aspect of the workshops was, “The feeling of community and [the] energy of [the] instructor who provided great insights about how to approach art and creative efforts.” Another noted that they enjoyed learning a new medium and “the ability to deeply study Black art through making new works.” Based on the surveys we collected participants greatly appreciated Valerie’s teaching and the opportunity to learn about art and to create their own works.



*Artist Valerie Collymore leads NAAM's Kelley Collection painting course. Photo by NAAM Staff.*



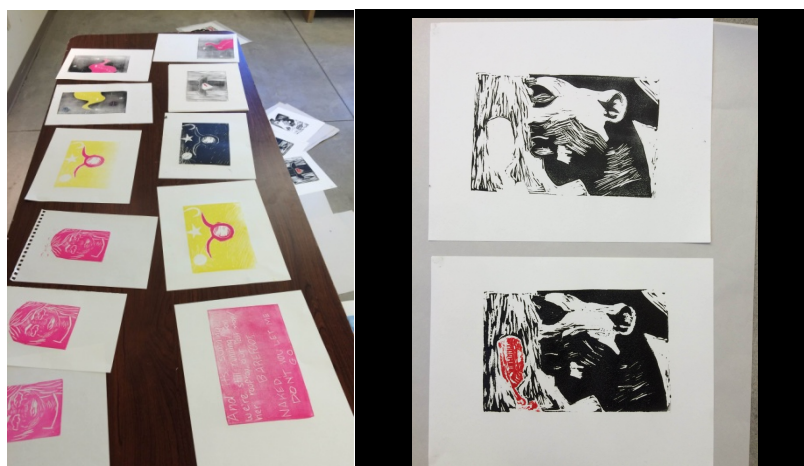
*Participants listen as Valerie Collymore leads the Kelley Collection course. Photo by NAAM Staff.*

## 2. I ♥ Art Workshops

NAAM partnered with the Gage Academy of Art to present a three-part series of two-day, free workshops for teens ages 13-18 years old. Inspired by the various art-making techniques featured in the exhibit *The Harmon and Harriet Kelley Collection of African American Art: Works on Paper*, each session focused on a different artistic process. During the first session (March 12, 13) students completed original cut paper compositions. During the second session (March 19, 20) students focused on bold painting techniques—like those used by artists Jacob Lawrence and

Romare Bearden—to create a narrative work about community. At the third and final session (April 2, 3) students used drafting, carving, and inking techniques to create linoleum prints.

*Artwork created by student participants in the I ♥ Art Workshops. Photos by NAAM staff.*



### **3. Book-It Repertory Theatre Program**

Book-It Repertory Theatre hosted a Family Fun Day at NAAM with a special performance of *A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin* for an audience of eighty-five visitors. Horace Pippin was an African American painter who was born in 1888. Pippin was a contemporary of many of the artists featured in the *Kelley Collection* exhibition and, like them, is linked to the Harlem Renaissance. Although his work was not represented in the exhibition, his life story tied neatly into the biographies and artwork presented in the Kelley Collection.

### **4. Complex Exchange: Tradition and Innovation**

A program partnership with the Seattle Art Museum (SAM), Complex Exchange was a series of three highly well-received free public events that paired together Seattle community members from varying disciplines for conversations related to issues of race, power, and the politics of representation. The themes of this series were inspired by both the *The Harmon and Harriet Kelley Collection* exhibition at NAAM and SAM's exhibition, *Kehinde Wiley: A New Republic*. This highly successful partnership will continue in May, 2016 with a final program to be hosted at SAM.



*Concert violinist and educator Dr. Quinton Morris, artist and writer Barbara Earl Thomas, and award-winning STEM educator and nonprofit executive Zithri Saleem present at Complex Exchange. Photo by Gene Trent, Black-eyed Photography ([www.blackeyephotog.smuugmug.com](http://www.blackeyephotog.smuugmug.com)).*

## 5. NAAM's 2016 Dr. Carver Gayton Youth Curator Program

The Youth Curator Program has been a keystone educational program for NAAM since we first opened in 2008. Each year we accept a group of ten local high school students to participate in a



12-week intensive program where they learn about museum work and create an original exhibit. This year, students worked with artists from the Onyx Fine Arts Collective (a Seattle-based organization that supports African American artists) to explore the art in the Kelley Collection, develop their artistic skills, and create their own artwork for their exhibit, *Artist Studio: Drawing Attention Outside the Lines* which is currently on display at NAAM.

*2016 Youth Curators and instructors pose inside the Kelley Collection exhibition. Photo by S. Fried.*

*Artist Al Doggett works with youth curator Leland Adams during NAAM's 2016 Youth Curator Program. Photo by S. Fried.*



The Northwest African American Museum thanks the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund for supporting our recent exhibition, and providing the Museum the opportunity to welcome diverse audiences to learn about and explore a unique facet of African American history and culture.

# The Seattle Times

## Art, dance and more for Black History Month in Seattle

Originally published February 11, 2016 at 12:55 pm Updated February 12, 2016 at 11:01 am



*“Sharecropper,” a linocut by Elizabeth Catlett (1915-2012), is part of the exhibit of works from the Harmon and Harriet Kelley exhibition at the Northwest African American Museum. Many of Catlett’s works reflected the hardship faced by women in... [More](#)*

**“The Harmon & Harriet Kelley Collection of African American Art: Works on Paper,” at the Northwest African American Museum, features 68 works by prominent black artists. It’s one of several ways Seattle institutions are marking Black History Month.**

By [Nicole Einbinder](#)

*Seattle Times reporter*

From Seattle Presents Gallery’s “Sign of the Times” exhibition, created in the aftermath of the Charleston church shooting, to a Northwest Tap Connection

*“Art, dance and more for Black History Month in Seattle,” Seattle Times*

Originally published February 11, 2016 at 12:55 pm Updated February 12, 2016 at 11:01 am

performance at EMP Museum, there are ample opportunities across the city to mark Black History Month.

One standout: “The Harmon & Harriet Kelley Collection of African American Art: Works on Paper” at the Northwest African American Museum, through April 17. (The museum is at 2300 S. Massachusetts St., Seattle; admission is \$5-\$7, more info at [naamnw.org](http://naamnw.org).) The 68-work traveling exhibition includes drawings, etchings, lithographs, watercolors and pastels — all by African-American artists, and all part of one of the country’s best collections of such work.

Harmon and Harriet Kelley, of San Antonio, Texas, began buying art after a museum exhibition made them realize how many black artists they were unaware of, and that they wanted their daughters to grow up better informed about their heritage.

“It’s really a very special, rare collection,” said NAAM executive director Rosanna Sharpe. “It’s a survey of the best in terms of works done by African-American artists, and so I like to not say it’s African-American art, but it’s American art done by African-American artists.”

“Most art-history books are written by white men, so unfortunately the myriad of women in the arts or artist of color in the larger narrative of American art was overlooked,” she added. “So this exhibit, and a lot of other exhibits, are starting to be more recognized and have started to correct some of the historical wrongs of how American art was authored.”

The pieces are displayed thematically, as opposed to chronologically, around such topics as social commentary, important figures and landscapes. Artists Ron Adams, Margaret Taylor-Burroughs, Henry Ossawa Tanner and Jacob Lawrence, who taught for 15 years at the University of Washington and is the namesake of the school’s Jacob Lawrence Gallery, are included in the exhibition.

For Sharpe, Ron Adams’ 2002 lithograph “Blackburn” particularly stands out.

“Art, dance and more for Black History Month in Seattle,” *Seattle Times*

Originally published February 11, 2016 at 12:55 pm Updated February 12, 2016 at 11:01 am

“It kind of gives the feeling of a professional artist in a printmaking studio doing his craft,” she said. “It speaks to not the professionalization but definitely the studio environment where some of these works were created.”

The Northwest African American Museum is the only African-American museum between Vancouver, B.C., and San Francisco, said interim communications manager Otts Bolisay, and Black History Month is one of NAAM’S busiest times of the year.

“It’s kind of amazing to see people come through who had no idea that the museum was even there and how thankful they are that we are doing this sort of thing,” he said. “This is a space where the community can feel a sense of ownership and belonging to see these images of themselves.”

The museum will also be hosting teen workshops in March and April for aspiring artists, Sharpe said. On Feb. 24, they will be partnering with the Seattle Art Museum to host “Complex Exchange: Tradition | Innovation,” the first of a series of four events focusing on themes of art, technology and music in relation to blackness, according to Bolisay.

“Seattle really lacks a system by which artists of color are patronized in terms of galleries and exhibit opportunities,” Sharpe said. “We need to do our part to encourage artists who want to do this as a living and creating systems by which artists can be collected, exhibited, researched and documented.

“We want to really bring that force during Black History Month,” she said.

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