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Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Profiling Revolutionary African American Men Opens at Reginald F. Lewis Museum

BALTIMORE, Md. - The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture (The Lewis Museum) celebrated the opening of *Men of Change: Power. Triumph. Truth.*, an exhibition presenting the narrative of a nation through the profiles of significant African American men who are icons in the country's historical and cultural landscape. *Men of Change* will be at The Lewis, a Smithsonian Affiliate, through August 14, 2022. The exhibition was created by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and made possible through the support of Ford Motor Company Fund—the philanthropic arm of Ford.

Men of Change highlights revolutionary men—including Muhammad Ali, James Baldwin, W.E.B. Du Bois, Kendrick Lamar, and Baltimore natives Frederick Douglass and Ta-Nehisi Coates—whose journeys have altered the history and culture of the country through politics, sports, science, entertainment, business, and religion. Each biography is paired with original artwork by a noted artist that accentuates the subjects' individual legacies. The exhibition weaves a collective tapestry of what it is to be an African American man, past and present, and the legacy that only strengthens across generations. Participating artists include Nina Chanel Abney, Derrick Adams, Robert Pruitt, Tariku Shiferaw and Devan Shimoyama.

“The Reginald F. Lewis Museum is very excited to bring this exhibition to the Baltimore-Washington region,” said Executive Director Terri Lee Freeman. “*Men of Change* highlights the incredible contribution of African American men who are change makers. We think it is apropos to host this exhibit at the museum named for a 20th century business trailblazer, Reginald F. Lewis.”

“The Reginald F. Lewis Museum is a beacon in the community and an ideal place for this exhibition that endeavors to present authentic narratives about African American men,” said Myriam Springuel, director of SITES and Smithsonian Affiliations. “We hope that by experiencing *Men of Change* visitors will see a well of inspiration—regardless of gender, race or nationality—that encourages us to become our best selves.”

A diverse group of artists, advisors, academics, curators and museum professionals determined the men chosen as *Men of Change*. From Carter G. Woodson to Ryan Coogler, these men have changed entire fields, fought for justice, revolutionized art and touched millions of lives directly and indirectly. These men serve as metaphor, representing the many more men and the broader community that shaped them into important change agents. *Men of Change: Power. Triumph. Truth.* also incorporates the names and language of others—men and women—that signify the power of the African American journey in the American story. For more information about the exhibition, visit menofchange.si.edu.

The Lewis Museum has also developed a robust programming line-up during the months of *Men of Change's* run. In addition to a virtual fireside chat with Clint Smith who is featured in the exhibition about his New York Times best-seller *How the Word was Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America* leading up to the exhibition's official opening, events include Daddy's Girl Virtual Panel Talk: A Black Fathers and Daughters Sacred Bond March 17th at 7 pm EST and Short Kuts Comedy Show: Living While Black in America on Saturday, March 26th. To learn more about programming, visit the Lewis Museum events calendar at www.lewismuseum.org/events-calendar.

The *Men of Change* exhibition is sponsored by the Ford Motor Company Fund, which continues its commitment to supporting of America's diverse culture and building on other past exhibitions with SITES that include *Freedom's Sisters*, *American Sabor: Latinos in U.S. Popular Music* and *Our Journeys, Our Stories: Portraits of Latino Achievement*.

“Ford and the Smithsonian have a shared commitment to honoring people and achievements that reflect America's diverse culture,” said Mary Culler, president, Ford Motor Company Fund.

“Ford Fund is proud to bring *Men of Change* to the Greater Baltimore region to help showcase the legacies of African American men who have changed the world for the better.”

SITES and Smithsonian Affiliations are critical national outreach units at the Smithsonian Institution. For more than 65 years, SITES has been connecting Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science, and history. Smithsonian Affiliations establishes and maintains the Smithsonian’s long-term partnerships with museums, educational organizations, and cultural institutions in the U.S., Puerto Rico, and Panama. Together, SITES and Affiliations share the Smithsonian's vast resources with millions of people outside Washington, D.C. Visit sites.si.edu and affiliations.si.edu for more information.

As the automaker’s philanthropic arm, Ford Motor Company Fund has been supporting underserved and underrepresented communities for more than 70 years. Working with nonprofit organizations, community partners, and across the Ford network in the U.S. and around the world, Ford Fund provides resources and opportunities that advance equity and help people reach their highest potential. Since 1949, Ford Fund has invested more than \$2.1 billion in initiatives that ensure basic needs are met, provide access to essential services, offer tools to build new skill sets and open pathways to high quality jobs. For more information, visit www.fordfund.org or join us at @FordFund on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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About the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture

Located two blocks from Inner Harbor in Downtown Baltimore, the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture has served as the premier experience and best resource for information and inspiration about the lives of African American Marylanders since 2005. The 82,000 square foot facility accommodates over 13,000 square feet of permanent and temporary exhibition space, hosting more than 10,000 objects in our permanent collection, special exhibitions, educational programs and public events. The Museum has developed an African American curriculum and provided teacher training that is invaluable to Maryland’s 850,000 students and 50,000 teachers. For up-to-date information regarding programs and exhibits and to plan your timed admission, visit www.lewismuseum.org.