

S.E.E.D.S., Inc.
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PRESS STATEMENT: Black Press Invited to Events
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December 8, 2005

HIGH CULTURE PAN AFRICAN STYLE:

ART ** HONOR ** COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS ** LIBERATING POLITICS

S.E.E.D.S., Inc¹, joined by numerous Black Community organizations and churches, is spearheading a combination of African-centered events at Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center (100-01 Northern Blvd. in Corona, Queens), which gives a refreshed meaning to the concept of “*High Culture*”.

Sculpture Exhibit

Throughout December, S.E.E.D.S. is exhibiting its largest, most diverse selection of Shona stone sculpture in the Langston Hughes Art Gallery. One of New York’s best kept secrets, the library, is the perfect venue for the 100 plus exquisite pieces. Titled: “LIFEFORCE IV: SPIRIT WITHIN STONE”, the collection includes small, medium and large works². The twenty featured artists have expressed themselves through a variety of styles³ and with a host of diverse stone colors and types⁴. Items which are purchased will help fund book shipments and AIDS relief in 5 African countries as well as youth and elderly programs in New York. A portion of a purchaser’s payment can be designated to the Black Community Organization of her/his choice.

Honoring Leadership By Example

On Friday, Dec. 16th, 6-9pm, during an expanded special showing of the art, the African Community will honor three “of its best”. Adelaide L. Sanford, Vice-Chancellor of the NY State Board of Regents and Fr. Lawrence Lucas, Rikers Island Chaplain, will be recognized “for decades of sustained service to, and a lifetime of love for African people”. They will receive the *Lifetime Leadership By Example Awards*. Joining these beloved and inspirational figures of New York’s Black Community, as an “awardee” is Ms. Theresa Chinheya, S.E.E.D.S. volunteer for over eight years. Ms. Chinheya who is also the mother of two hard working teens, and herself, “a struggling math education [college] student”, will receive the *Grassroots Leadership By Example Award* “for sustained service and inspirational commitment to African Children ...while contending with profound personal challenges”. According to Jacqueline Wright, S.E.E.D.S., Inc. president, the awards honor the memory of Elliot Mhlanga, beloved S.E.E.D.S. empowerment worker in Zimbabwe, who died from auto accident injuries on Christmas Day 2004.

Empowerment Forum

And if that wasn’t enough, on Saturday, December 17th (1-5pm), in the Langston Hughes auditorium, S.E.E.D.S. will convene the **African Communities Empowerment (ACE)**

¹ *S.E.E.D.S., Inc.* is an international non-governmental organization (NGO), working for the empowerment and liberation of Africans “at Home and abroad”.

² There are pieces only a few inches...and ounces to 3 or 4 feet...and several hundred pounds.

³ Traditional “Creation” (aka abstract); exactly detailed naturalism and realism; impressionist, etc.

⁴ Super hard green-gold, green-green and very rare gold-green verdites; hard springstones, butter jades, opalstones and other serpentines; and brown, gray, green indigenous soapstones.

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Forum Series. The series theme is: *Pan African Liberation: Building a Strong, African-centered Mass Movement in the US.*

The thrust of *Forum One* --and the whole series-- is a call to African activists, organizations and “average people” to intensify efforts to work collaboratively to help invigorate, better organize and expand “our Mass Movement”. The three panels comprising *Forum One* are:

- **Panel One:** *Linking Critical Sectors and Struggles to Build a Strong Movement: “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.”*
- **Panel Two:** *Activists and Organizations Must Work Together to Transform our Movement: “Practicing what we preach is to lead by example.”*
- **Panel Three:** *Collaborative Strategies and Projects to Bring More of Our People into Struggle: “Our movement must have quantity and quality.”*

In launching the Series, conveners proffered the following four goals:

- (1) Identify and implement a selection of replicable, African-centered projects, campaigns and initiatives in which average people become engaged and active.
- (2) Broaden the base of average people “serving” in the Mass Movement
- (3) Swell the ranks of Movement activists
- (4) Deepen the understanding and quality of work of Activists regarding collaborative organizing within Our Movement
- (5) Compound the potency and impact of Our Movement

Among the activists and organizations already endorsing this empowering cultural bonanza are: *Michael Hooper, Viola Plummer, Churne Lloyd, Dr. Segun Shabaka, Bok-Keem Nyerere, Rev. Marvin J. Bentley, Fr. Lawrence Lucas, Betty Dopson, Dr. James McIntosh, Bernard White, Shadidi B. Kinsey, Dr. Sam Anderson, Joan Gibbs, Roger Wareham, Bob Law, Camille Yarbrough, Shaheed Muhammad, Lisa Davis, Herb Boyd, Elombe Brath, J. Watusi Branch, Regent Adelaide Sanford, Lee Guest, Dr. Ron Daniels, Councilman Charles Barron, Melvin Simmons, Muntu Matsimela, Brenda Stokely;* Africans Helping Africans, Africa Is Home Coalition; African Poetry Theater, Antioch Baptist Church, Black New Yorkers for Educational Excellence, CEMOTAP, December 12th Movement, Family and Friends of Dr. Mutulu Shakur, Institute of the Black World 21st Century; National Association of Kawaida Organizations, New York Millions More Movement, Pan-African Plan / Pro-Africa Policy, Roots Revisited, S.E.E.D.S., Inc.

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