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**‘A MEMOIR IN MOVEMENT: CARMEN DE LAVALLADE AND GEOFFREY
HOLDER,’ A CAREER CHRONICLING EXHIBITION ON TWO PROLIFIC
PERFORMANCE ARTISTS EXTENDED AT THE CALIFORNIA AFRICAN
AMERICAN MUSEUM**

LOS ANGELES (April 9, 2014) The California African American Museum (CAAM) extends “A Memoir in Movement: Carmen de Lavallade and Geoffrey Holder”, an exhibition which highlights the careers of two world-renowned performing artists. Now on view through July 6, 2014, the exhibition selectively surveys the more than half a century of prodigious artistic output from the ultimate power couple, Carmen de Lavallade and Geoffrey Holder as actors, dancers, choreographers, teachers, artists, collectors, designers and directors.

The exhibition was originally curated by the DuSable Museum of African American History, and has been reorganized by CAAM for a broader presentation in CAAM’s galleries. It features artwork and sculptures produced by Holder, in addition to two Tony awards earned by Holder for his direction and costume design for the Broadway musical “The Wiz.” The exhibition also includes numerous gowns worn by de Lavallade and designed by Holder. Interviews and performances of with Holder and de Lavallade are on display in video installations, one featuring side-by-side video footage, playing simultaneously, of de Lavallade’s performance on stage in 1972 and in 2012.

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As a trained painter at an early age, the exhibition features dozens of Holder's paintings, drawings and collages, from throughout his career.

"As a former dancer and former executive director for the Dance Theatre of Harlem, this exhibition is near and dear to me," says Charmaine Jefferson CAAM's executive director and curator of this exhibition. "I've seen both Carmen and Geoffrey perform live and it was an amazing experience. However, to see their careers chronicled in such an artistic way, brings much needed light to the importance African Americans had on dance and theater."

Carmen de Lavallade, a Los Angeles native took the dance world by storm in the late '40s. The lithe dancer was inspired by her cousin, Janet Collins, the first African American to be a prima ballerina for the Metropolitan Opera. Since the launch of her career in 1949, de Lavallade has captured the spotlight in Broadway musicals, television productions, films and international performances. Introduced to a 20th Century Fox filmmaker by the renowned Lena Horne, de Lavallade was featured in four movies, including her breathtaking dance performance in "Carmen Jones" (1954).

The year 1954 proved pivotal for de Lavallade as she danced her way into the Broadway musical "House of Flowers," where she met her future husband Geoffrey Holder. The pair married only four months after meeting, and remain married today.

"There is not an art field in which Holder has not impacted. His influence in dance, theater, visual arts, film, and television is what sets him apart from his counterparts," say Jefferson.

Raised in Trinidad, Holder joined The Holder Dance Company founded by his older brother. With an interest in dance at a very early age, Holder would sneak

to his brother's dance company after school, often hiding in a barrel of costumes and reappearing when it was show time. His brother also introduced him to the world of visual arts where he went on to create artwork depicting the Trinidad and New York nightlife as well as portraits of de Lavallade. Holder is best known for his film features in "Doctor Dolittle" (1967), "Live and Let Die" (1973), and "Annie"

(1982). As 7UP's "Uncola Man" in their 1970s television advertising campaign, he became the first person of color to be cast in a national TV ad for the beverage company.

CAAM is located at 600 State Drive in Exposition Park, Los Angeles, CA 90037. ADMISSION IS ALWAYS FREE! Accessible parking for all of Exposition Park is located at 39th & Figueroa for \$10 per vehicle. For more information on CAAM call (213) 744-7432 or visit www.caamuseum.org. Find CAAM on Twitter and Facebook at www.twitter.com/CAAMinLA and www.facebook.com/CAAMinLA.

ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

The California African American Museum (CAAM) is a state agency charged with researching, collecting, preserving and interpreting for public enrichment the history, art and culture of African Americans. Collaboratively operating in partnership with its 501(c)(3) non-profit organization Friends, the Foundation of the California African American Museum, CAAM houses a permanent collection of over 3,000 objects of art, artifacts and historical documents, and a publicly accessible Research Library containing more than 20,000 volumes.

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