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**'COMMON GROUNDS II,' AN EXHIBITION OF CULTURAL PARALLELS
BETWEEN LOS ANGELES' HISPANIC AND AFRICAN AMERICANS, ON
VIEW AT MERCADO LA PALOMA**

LOS ANGELES – January 18, 2013 - The California African American Museum (CAAM) has collaborated with Esperazna Community Housing to present "Common Grounds II," an exhibition that features the photographic work of 13 artists who highlight the similarities and differences between African American and Hispanic cultures.

"The world may view African and Latino Americans as being different, but in reality their traditions and experiences are quite similar. The real beauty is the fusion that occurs when their cultures cross, and 'Common Grounds II' is small samplings of these occurrences," said Vida Brown CAAM's Visual Art Curator.

Some of the photos in the exhibition speak to the misperceptions of African Americans and Hispanics, such as the image of a Hispanic youth displaying tattoos and a Black male youth draped in a hoodie. (A image taken well before the tragic death of Trayvon Martin.) In addition, the correlations of the two cultures are also displayed through photos of an Afro-Cuban band, fusion food, salsa dancing and much more.

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“Common Grounds II” is on view at Mercado La Paloma, 3655 South Grand Ave., Los Angeles. The exhibit is free and open to the public, and exhibition hours are from 8 a.m. – 9 p.m. For more information, visit www.caamuseum.org.

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS IN THE CAAM GALLERIES:

Sampling the Microscopic Artwork of Willard Wigan – Opening January 18, 2013 – March 17, 2013

Coloring America: Selections from the California African American Museum’s Permanent History Collection through March 24, 2013

Go Tell it on the Mountain through April 7, 2013

African American Military Portraits from the American Civil War: Selected Images from the Library of Congress Collections through April 14, 2013

Legacy of the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company: More Than a Business through June 23, 2013

ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

The California African American Museum (CAAM) researches, collects, preserves and interprets for public enrichment the history, art and culture of African Americans. Chartered by the California State Legislature in 1977, CAAM is a state supported institution and a partner with the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization Friends, the Foundation of the California African American Museum. In addition to its permanent collection of over 3,000 objects of art, artifacts and historical documents, CAAM also houses a research library

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containing more than 20,000 volumes, employs and trains high school students through its *Young Docents* program, and hosts in-house curated exhibitions and traveling exhibitions on a regular basis. The museum also tours CAAM exhibitions throughout California and the nation.

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